

Japan pledges Gulf peace initiative

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Japan's foreign minister, Shintaro Abe, Wednesday promised "every possible effort" to establish a climate in which Iran and Iraq might end their five-year war. Mr. Abe, who has met leaders of both countries several times, said he had developed a sympathetic understanding of their positions and appealed to them for an early peace. "In consultation with the secretary-general and all other countries which seek peace in this region, I intend to continue making every possible effort to create a climate conducive to peace," he said in an address to the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Abe discussed the Gulf war with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose special envoy, Diego Cordovez, has been trying to promote a settlement. "The secretary-general's initiative last June produced agreements by both sides not to attack civilian population areas," Mr. Abe said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة منشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Baz expected to arrive with message

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ozama Al Baz, a senior political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, is expected to arrive in Amman Thursday with a message from the Egyptian president to His Majesty King Hussein. Monte Carlo Radio said Wednesday. The radio, monitored here, did not say what the message would contain. Dr. Baz's visit on Thursday will mark the first visit of a senior Egyptian official to Jordan after the Kingdom announced Tuesday its decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt, which was ostracised by the Arab World following the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Dr. Baz, considered to be one of the closest advisers to Mr. Mubarak, has visited Jordan several times earlier this year and last year following the King's meeting with Mr. Mubarak in New Delhi during the Non-Aligned Movement's summit in May 1983.

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King, Queen to visit Sweden, Holland

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will pay state visits to Sweden and Holland early next month at the invitation of the two countries' monarchs, according to an announcement by the Royal Court Wednesday. The announcement said that the King and Queen received invitations for the visits from Queen Beatrix of Holland and her husband Prince Claus, and from King Carl Gustav of Sweden and his wife Queen Sylvia.

Hussein sends good wishes to N. Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes Wednesday to the North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in which he congratulated the North Yemeni leader on the occasion of the Yemeni Revolution Day. In his cable King Hussein wished the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity.

Amman to host OPEC meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is organising a meeting in Amman on Tuesday to discuss projects in Arab countries in which the OPEC can participate. Heads of Arab oil research centres and scientific institutions will attend the two-day meeting which will also discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among their organisations in cooperation with the OPEC, according to a spokesman for the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) where the meeting will be held.

S. Arabia, Brazil to discuss arms deal

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz was quoted Wednesday as saying he would discuss possible arms purchases from Brazil during a visit there next week. Prince Sultan will have talks with Army Minister General Walter Pires and other officials after he arrives in Brazil on Oct. 3.

Jawara leaves Jeddah after Gulf talks

JEDDAH (R) — Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara left Jeddah for London Wednesday after talks with Islamic leaders on an Islamic peace initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war, the Saudi Press Agency reported. It said Mr. Jawara had talks with King Fahd Wednesday night on the initiative, proposed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Explosions reported in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Two time bombs exploded successively under parked cars near the Evia Hotel in Tehran Wednesday, slightly injuring three passersby, IRNA, the official Iranian news agency, reported. The agency said the two cars and a motorbike were wrecked in the early morning explosions. IRNA blamed "counter-revolutionary elements" for "this desperate move."

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Obeidat: Decision aimed at ending Arab paralysis

Jordan defends move to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat and several senior cabinet members Wednesday defended Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt by saying the move was aimed at "serving the causes of Arab unity, strengthening Arab solidarity and ending the state of paralysis in Arab action."

"This step was taken to serve the cause of Arab unity and to safeguard the Arabs' dignity and rights, and to defend their national identity and culture," Mr. Obeidat told Radio Jordan in an interview following Tuesday's cabinet decision to restore diplomatic and political relations with Egypt after a break of over five years.

He said that Jordan took this step "in order to stop a retreat in the national march, and end the state of paralysis which has prevailed in the Arab World recently."

"Jordan is now pursuing a sincere effort to revive and bolster inter-Arab relations to enhance the Arab masses' confidence in themselves and their leadership," the prime minister said.

Mr. Obeidat said that the restoration of ties with Egypt, which was ostracised by most Arab states following Cairo's signing of a sep-

arate peace treaty with Israel in 1979, represents a call to all Arab countries to rise to the level of challenges that they are facing at the present stage.

"We hope that the state of paralysis that impeded joint Arab action will end and that a new era will start, with the Arab states mobilising their resources and unifying their ranks for a serious and joint action," Mr. Obeidat said.

The prime minister paid tribute to the Egyptian people and their sacrifices for the Arab Nation and its causes. "The Egyptian people played an historic role that cannot be overlooked, and had offered sacrifices that must be a source of pride for all Arabs," he said.

Mr. Obeidat said that the new Egyptian leadership under President Hosni Mubarak, successor to Anwar Sadat who signed the 1979 treaty with Israel, "is one that deserves full support as it

deals with the Arab Nation and its issues in a positive manner and this requires a reciprocal move on the part of the Arab states."

"Our national responsibilities make it imperative that we take firm steps towards strengthening Arab solidarity, and we hope that a new coherent and strong Arab stand and Jordan's new decision will together form an effective step towards safeguarding Arab rights and regaining the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland," Mr. Obeidat said.

In taking this decision, he said, "Jordan aims at preserving the interests of the Arab countries in general and those of the Jordanian people in particular, and also Jordan's relations with the people of Egypt."

Jordan, he added, took the decision after due consideration of all circumstances prevailing in the Arab World and the aspirations of Arab citizens.

He said: "In taking this decision, Jordan expects to receive reactions that reflect optimism and hope, and is therefore concerned with positive reactions which have started coming in from around the Arab World."

"But," he said, "if there had to be any negative reactions, we will leave them for the Arab Nation to judge them."

In an interview with the Jordanian newspaper said the Jordanian action will promote Arab solidarity and "this is an important historic step" which we welcome and support.

Egyptian Information Minister Mohammad Safwat Al Sharif said that the restoration of the relations is a brave step taken by King Hussein and reflects the King's support for President Mubarak's wise policies. He said in a statement in Cairo that the Jordanian decision reflects the King's "far-sightedness and wisdom and a true desire to reunify Arab ranks so as the Arabs can confront the common dangers."

At the United Nations, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Meguid said that the decision is bound to help reunify Arab ranks and bring the Arab countries closer together. He hoped that other Arab states will follow suit.

Tunisian and Lebanese newspapers Wednesday gave prominence to the Jordanian decision and published it prominently on their front pages.

Jordanian public generally unsurprised by resumption of diplomatic ties with Egypt, page 3

Egypt hails Jordanian move

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday described Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt as an important step towards strengthening and realising Arab goals.

In his first comment after being informed of the decision by His Majesty King Hussein, who personally contacted the Egyptian leader by telephone Tuesday, Mr. Mubarak said in Cairo: "Egypt welcomes the resumption of complete diplomatic relations between it and Jordan as an important step on the path to strengthening Arab solidarity and mobilising the powers of our great nation to confront the critical challenges it faces."

Without specifically mentioning other Arab states, which, in line with an Arab summit resolution, severed diplomatic relations with Egypt in the wake of the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979, Mr. Mubarak said Egypt hoped "all will rise to the level of the challenge and keep away from manoeuvres and outbiddings."

In a statement issued through the Middle East News Agency, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said the Jordanian action "reflects a common faith in the importance of concerted Arab action to deal with matters of destiny... and will undoubtedly play a role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Earlier Wednesday, Egyptian Minister of State Buiros Ghali also applauded the Jordanian move and said he expected Jordan and Egypt to exchange ambassadors and reopen embassies in their respective capitals "within the next few days."

Mr. Ghali spoke after conferring with Shaker Bak, head of the Jordanian interests section operating out of the Pakistani embassy.

The leading Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram said Jordan's resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt is "an important historic step" that will help the two countries seek a just Palestinian settlement.

'Beirut bomber identified'

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese military investigators believe they have identified the driver of the bomb-laden truck that exploded next to the U.S. embassy annex in a Beirut suburb last week, sources close to the inquiry said Wednesday.

The sources, who are close to Elias Mousa, the military investigator heading Lebanon's probe into the bombing, said that American and Lebanese security officials who caught a glimpse of the attacker last Thursday had picked one man's photo from several shown them from Lebanese files.

"We have sufficient information on the identity of the perpetrator and the people who planned for the operation," Mr. Mousa was quoted as saying by the sources, who asked not to be identified.

Jumblatt says U.S. must change policies, page 2

Lebanon raises number of parliament members

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese government decided on Wednesday to raise the number of parliament members from 99 to 122 to create equality between Muslims and Christians in the nation's one-house legislature, Beirut Radio reported.

Christians have held a 6-5 edge in parliament and dominated key government offices and army posts since the nation's 1943 independence from France.

The state radio said the new decision was taken at a cabinet "conclave" headed by President Amin Gemayel at his summer residence in the mountain resort town of Bikfaya, 16 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

The series of running closed deliberations by the government was launched nine days ago to set the stage for political reforms that would divide power equally between the two communities and end the civil war.

The radio did not say whether the additional 23 members of parliament would be elected or appointed. Administration officials

have previously said no elections could be held as long as two thirds of Lebanon's territory are controlled by Syrian and Israeli forces.

The cabinet also set up a four-man "Emergency Committee for South Lebanon" to coordinate efforts among the nation's principal militias to cope with the Israeli occupation, the radio said.

Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt accused the "national unity" government of burying Lebanon's future in committee discussion.

"The picture of Lebanon's future has been referred to committees, that is, to burial. And this is very serious," Mr. Junblatt said in an interview published Wednesday in the Arabic daily Al-Anwar.

At the end of Wednesday morning's session, Mr. Junblatt, who is minister of public works, told reporters the cabinet had formed an "emergency committee" to deal with security questions in areas south of the capital.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday holds talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat (to the King's right) in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat (right) and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (Petra photo)

King, Arafat hold talks

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived unexpectedly in Amman Wednesday, a day after Jordan announced its decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt, and later had a working dinner with His Majesty King Hussein.

No details were available on the talks which continued through Wednesday night. But political observers here expected the Jordanian move to restore relations with Egypt to figure in the talks.

But Acting Foreign Minister and Transport Minister Taher Hikmat and Information Minister Laila Sharaf denied, in separate interviews, that Mr. Arafat's visit was linked to Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt. Mr. Hikmat, however, told the Jordan Times that although Mr. Arafat was expected to visit Amman sometime this week or early next week his arrival early Wednesday was a "surprise to us."

PLO officials in Amman did not

deny or confirm whether Mr. Arafat's sudden visit was prompted by the Jordanian decision and whether he was expected to discuss it with the King.

In the only press statement he gave on Wednesday, hours before his meeting with the King, Mr. Arafat said that he will discuss with the King "joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to support the steadfastness of people in the occupied Arab territories and recent developments in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas concerning the Palestinian question."

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted the PLO chairman as saying that his visit to Amman was scheduled to take place earlier but that it was postponed because the King was abroad.

The Palestinian leader stressed the need to formulate a joint Jordanian-Palestinian stance to counter the newly-formed Israeli coalition government which he described as a "government of war."

Mr. Arafat avoided any comment on the Jordanian decision to

restore diplomatic relations with Egypt since ties with Cairo are considered a highly controversial issue in the Palestinian arena. The PLO chairman's visit to Cairo last December and his reconciliation with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak provoked strong condemnations from Syria and radical Palestinian factions.

A political and organisational reconciliation agreement that was struck between the leadership of Fateh, the mainstream commando group and Mr. Arafat's power base in the PLO, and four Damascus-based left-wing Palestinian factions last June considered Mr. Arafat's Cairo visit to be a "violation" of Palestinian National Council (PNC) resolutions and stipulated a freeze on all PLO contacts with the Egyptian government.

Palestinian observers believe

that Mr. Arafat will maintain his public silence concerning Jordan's move to resume relations with Egypt so as not to undermine current reconciliation efforts with Syria and to convene the PNC, the Palestinian parliament in exile.

Lebanon pullout decision in weeks, Peres says

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday he hoped that within several weeks his government would decide on a plan to pull Israeli troops out of Lebanon.

In an interview with Israel Radio's English language programme, Mr. Peres said that "I do hope that in a matter of several weeks a plan will be put before the government and the government will be in a position to take its final decision."

Without giving specific dates, Mr. Peres added that "I hope very much that in a matter of several months this decision will be implemented."

In an interview with the daily Yedioth Ahronot newspaper, Mr. Peres was quoted as estimating that a total pullout would take six to nine months.

Mr. Peres met Tuesday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy to discuss a planned pullout but said that formal negotiations or a diplomatic shuttle were not necessary to bring about an understanding with Syria over an Israeli pullout.

"The most important thing is for Israel herself to make her proposals and decide on outlines," he told the radio.

Mr. Peres is likely to discuss the Lebanon question and other Middle East issues when he meets with U.S. President Ronald Reagan Oct. 9.

Mr. Peres also said he has had "indirect hints" from Arab leaders signalling willingness to negotiate with Israel.

Mr. Peres told Yedioth Ahronot: "Yes, I have received several indirect hints but each one must be examined carefully before we can say anything with certainty."

Israelis step up militia training in South Lebanon, page 2

Shultz, Gromyko hold 3-hour 'warm-up' session in New York

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met for nearly three hours Wednesday in a "warm-up session" for President Ronald Reagan's meeting with Mr. Gromyko Friday.

A smiling and relaxed Gromyko told reporters after his meeting with Mr. Shultz: "Please don't ask me any questions... our discussions are not concluded."

He said he will answer questions after his meeting Friday in Washington.

The meeting with Mr. Shultz, held at the U.S. mission to the United Nations stated at 1344 GMT and ended at 1640 GMT.

Mr. Gromyko emerged first, followed a few minutes later by Mr. Shultz.

After Mr. Gromyko told reporters not to ask any questions, Mr. Shultz then emerged to tell reporters: "Mr. Gromyko and I have just completed a comprehensive and broad conversation as a background to the conversation he will be having with the president in Washington."

Mr. Shultz was scheduled to go

to Washington Thursday to report to Mr. Reagan on his talks. Evidently to show he is not taking sides in the U.S. presidential election, Mr. Gromyko will meet Thursday afternoon with Walter Mondale, the Democratic presidential hopeful. That meeting will be held at the Soviet mission to the United Nations.

Earlier, as Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Shultz met China's foreign minister Wednesday chastised the United States and Soviet Union for "sabotaging" arms negotiations and called for the "thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons."

Wu Xueqian in an address to the 159-member U.N. General Assembly, demanded that the United States and the Soviet Union "stop their nuclear arms race... resume negotiations on nuclear missiles and reduce or destroy those nuclear missiles already deployed in Europe, Asia and elsewhere and that they immediately stop extending their arms race to outer space."

Gromyko-Shamir talks

Meanwhile in Moscow, the

Hussein receives Reagan's message

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan delivered by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported. No information on the contents of the letter was revealed, but Petra said the King and Mr. Murphy also held talks on the Middle East problems and the results of Mr. Murphy's current tour in the region.

During the two-hour meeting at Al Nadwa Palace, Mr. Murphy "explained the stages he reached after his talks with officials in Lebanon, Syria and Israel on the conditions of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the points agreed upon by officials in Damascus, Beirut and Tel Aviv," Petra said in a dispatch.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Amman said Mr. Murphy is in the area to discuss "the latest developments in the Middle East." Spokesman John Wilcox, reached by telephone, said the timing of Mr. Murphy's visit to the region had nothing to do with Jordan's resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt or the presence of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Amman. He said it was sheer "coincidence" and that the U.S. envoy was called to the region after last Thursday's bomb attack at the U.S. embassy annex in Beirut.

Mr. Wilcox told the Jordan Times that Mr. Murphy took the opportunity of his presence in the region to confer with leaders of countries in the region as "part of ongoing contacts" between the

(Continued on page 2)

Pakistan warns of global nuclear threat

VIENNA (Agencies) — Pakistan said Wednesday the United States and the Soviet Union were building nuclear weapons at such an alarming pace that they were losing the moral force to dissuade others from doing the same.

Pakistan's delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) annual conference, Munir Ahmad Khan, also said nuclear arms expenditure meant less money for peaceful nuclear programmes and could indirectly aggravate Third World debt.

The superpowers were building sophisticated nuclear weapons at the rate of one nearly every two hours, he said.

This example was a dangerous one because "they are losing the moral force for persuading others from following this dangerous course."

Pakistan, along with six other non-nuclear weapons states, is widely regarded as having the ability to build such weapons.

Mr. Ahmad Khan said the nuclear power industry was currently passing through an economic crisis and needed a boost. Otherwise oil prices would rise and further worsen the balance of payments situation of already indebted Third World countries.

"The attitude of the advanced countries of denying nuclear power to the needy developing countries is both unjustified and self-defeating," he added.

The 112-member IAEA was set up in 1957 to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

During Wednesday's session, Iran accused the two superpowers of trying to bring it "to its knees,"

and claimed lack of international sanctions against Israel for bombing an Iraqi reactor in 1981 "provoked" Iraq to attack an Iranian nuclear plant in March 1984.

The charges were made by Iranian chief delegate Raza Amrollahi.

"Despite all these attempts and conspiracies against our Islamic republic, we have been able to prove to all the nations at least within this international forum that we unconditionally support the freedom of countries from the captivity of the superpowers," Mr. Amrollahi said.

The Iranian delegate recalled that in 1982 his country had called for the expulsion of Israel from the agency. But he stopped short of repeating that formal demand Wednesday.

France begins Chad pullout

N'DJAMENA (R) — France has begun to withdraw some of the 3,200 troops sent last year to the war-torn Central African state of Chad to help President Hissene Habre fend off an advance by Libyan-backed rebels.

A French army spokesman here said about 160 French soldiers and 30 army vehicles were pulled back Tuesday from the northern bases of Salal and Arada. Military sources said the French flag was lowered at Salal and replaced by Chad's flag.

The men and equipment were withdrawn to the towns of Mousoro and Biltine.

The spokesman did not say what was happening north of the so-called "red-line" which divides the former French colony and where an estimated 5,000 Libyan troops have been entrenched for the last 13 months.

France and Libya agreed to withdraw their forces from Chad during secret talks in the Libyan capital of Tripoli earlier this month.

The deal has been condemned by the Habre government, which says the accord provides no guarantee that Libya will not intervene again in Chad once the French have left.

In N'Djamena, there was little evidence France was ending its costly Chad intervention which has enabled Mr. Habre to rebel against the advance of the rebels led by former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei.

Life carried on normally in the capital of the land-locked, poverty-stricken country and restaurants benefited from the last few days of patronage by French soldiers.

A routine training flight over N'Djamena by several French fighter planes sparked little interest among the city's inhabitants.

It was unclear whether two neutral countries had overseen the withdrawal, as envisaged in the accord.

Chad rejected the choice as an observer of the Marxist West African state of Benin, a close Libyan ally, but accepted the more moderate Senegal.

France sent troops to Chad in August 1983 since when there has been an effective military stalemate.

The withdrawal accord has been welcomed by many African states while the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has said the move could pave the way for an end to the civil war which has raged intermittently in Chad for 20 years.

The brief dispatch by the JANA news agency said implementation began Tuesday but did not give any details.

Sources in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena said French troops started to withdraw from advanced positions in Chad Tuesday.

Karim Togoi, a close adviser of Mr. Habre, was expected to deliver the letter later Wednesday at the Presidential Palace, but an embassy spokesman would not say whether he would meet Mr. Mitterrand.

The spokesman refused to comment on the content of the message, but informed sources said it dealt with Mr. Habre's refusal to accept observers from Benin to monitor the simultaneous pull-out of French and Libyan forces from Chad.

In Tripoli, Libya's Official News Agency (JANA) said Wednesday that implementation of the Libyan-French agreement on troop withdrawal from Chad has begun.

The brief dispatch by the JANA news agency said implementation began Tuesday but did not give any details.

Sources in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena said French troops started to withdraw from advanced positions in Chad Tuesday.

Japanese to pull out of Bandar Khomeini

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese side of a joint petrochemical project with Iran will temporarily withdraw its engineers from the project site in southern Iran following the latest of numerous attacks on the site by Iraqi warplanes, a Mitsui and Co. spokesman said Wednesday.

Several Japanese workers on a damage assessment survey were slightly hurt Saturday when Iraqi fighter planes attacked the \$3-billion petrochemical project. They were the first Japanese injured at the plant since the Iran-Iraq war began in 1980.

AEU to extend support for W. Bank engineers

DAMASCUS (Petra) The Arab Engineers Union (AEU) meeting in Damascus decided to extend moral and material support for engineers in occupied Palestine to strengthen their steadfastness in the face of Israeli measures.

The decision was among several recommendations and resolutions taken by the union at the end of its two-day meeting here.

Taking part were delegates from 11 Arab states including Jordan.

University of Jordan to take part in Radio-TV seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan will take part in a seminar to be held at the Arab Radio and Television Training Centre in Damascus on Saturday.

The seminar which is being organized in cooperation with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) will discuss training Arab technicians in radio and television work.

Arabs to oppose U.S. terrorism bill

TUNIS (R) — The 21-member Arab League called on member-states to make urgent contacts with the United States administration to prevent the passing of legislation on terrorism which it said would benefit Israel.

A communique issued after a two-day meeting of the Arab League council in Tunis Tuesday said the session mandated Arab foreign ministers to tell Washington

of the Arabs' opposition to bills currently before Congress on international terrorism.

Such legislation, the communique said, "would help Israeli groups fight against Arab interests and escalate their aggression against Arab states."

The Arab League Council, which meets twice a year, is theoretically a ministerial body but

only one Arab foreign minister attended the session and most countries were represented by ambassadors.

Several Arab foreign ministers were in New York for the opening of the United Nations General Assembly and the Tunis meeting was largely devoted to routine administrative and financial matters, League sources said.

Junblatt says U.S. must change policies

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Druze leader Walid Junblatt said in a newspaper interview published Wednesday that the United States should change its Middle Eastern policies "or nothing will protect its embassy" from fresh bombing attacks.

Mr. Junblatt also told the Beirut daily Al Anwar that France might become a target, too, if President Francois Mitterrand's government goes ahead with arms supplies for the Lebanese army.

"In principle, we have denounced the bombing. But the United States naturally has to realize

that nothing will protect its embassy if it persists with its current policy no matter what precautions it will take," Mr. Junblatt said.

"There are certain policies toward the Lebanese, Arab and Palestinian peoples that must change," added the opposition leader who serves in Syrian-backed Prime Minister Rashid Karami's national coalition government.

Asked to comment on fears by other Western embassies, particularly the French, that they might also be attacked, Mr. Junblatt said: "The French should draw the lesson, too. Their pre-

vious policies have cost them dearly."

Mr. Junblatt, whose militia teamed with Shiite Muslim fighters in the latest civil war rounds last September and February, was referring to attacks on French troops of the Multinational Force that then served in Lebanon.

"I hope Mitterrand's scheduled visit to Syria will change things, but I want to clearly caution the French that they should not arm the Lebanese army," Mr. Junblatt said. "Otherwise things will reflect on them."

Iraq invites Iranians to visit shrines

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Tuesday night directed an open invitation to all Iranians to visit Shiite Muslim shrines in the country during the 30 days starting Wednesday.

A statement by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) broadcast over Baghdad Radio said all Iraqi embassies and diplomatic missions abroad were instructed to render all necessary services for Iranians who want to visit Iraq during the period.

The statement said the invitation marked the start of the new

Islamic Hijri year Wednesday. The Hijri calendar began 1,404 years ago when the Prophet Muhammad left his home town of Mecca to migrate to Medina.

The first 10 days of the first Hijri month of Muharram (the forbidden month) are holy days for Muslims. Shiites in particular, because they mark the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet and over 70 of his followers in Karbala, south west Iraq, about 14 centuries ago.

The RCC statement also invited Iranians to visit the shrines during the first 30 days of each month of the Hijri year.

The statement meanwhile called for all Islamic and other nations to exert pressure on Iran, at war with Iraq for four years, to stop the war and accept peace.

Israel steps up militia training in Lebanon

MAJAYDAH, Lebanon (AP) — The Israeli army has stepped up its training of South Lebanese militiamen in the wake of last week's killings in Sahnayeh where several militiamen gunned down 13 unarmed villagers.

About 1,200 militiamen — just over half — of the 2,100-man South Lebanon Army were gathered on a hillside under sight of the Israeli border Monday for training exercises conducted by a second of uniformed Israeli army officers.

Much of the sparse grass had been blackened by fire from tank guns and artillery pieces. An Israeli officer barked out orders in Hebrew, which were then translated into Arabic by a Lebanese militiaman.

A high-ranking Israeli military official interviewed about eight kilometers to the north in Marjayoun, said the heightened training was a direct result of last Thursday's revenge killings in the Shiite Muslim village of Sahnayeh.

"In each (militia) company, now we have one Israeli trainer, now we will have two," he said, speaking on condition he not be identified.

Thirteen Sahnayeh villagers were killed and 22 injured when Druse militiamen fired into a crowd which had been assembled for questioning about the killings of four militiamen several hours earlier.

The Israeli military official said the shootings stemmed from Lebanon's centuries-old tradition of blood feuds and not from problems within the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

The militia's commander, retired Lebanese army Gen. Antoine Lahad, was at Majaydah as Israeli soldiers patrolled his men through their practices and demonstrated such tactics as how to treat and evacuate casualties.

King receives U.S. message

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. administration and the countries involved. He said Mr. Murphy was not expected to meet with Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Murphy's visit came one day after Jordan became the first Arab state to reestablish diplomatic relations with Egypt which were severed following Cairo's signing of the U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Egyptian treaty of 1979.

Mr. Murphy, who arrived from Cairo Wednesday and later left for an unknown destination, was on a tour in the area which also took him to Syria and Israel. Diplomatic sources in Amman said his visit came following Israeli suggestions that the U.S. mediate with Syria for "security guarantees" for Israel that would allow the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon.

The meeting between King Hussein and Mr. Murphy was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Royal Court Minister Adnan Abu Odal, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Becker.

Egypt hails Jordanian decision

(Continued from page 1)

The Jordanian move was welcomed by Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. He said that the restoration of relations could be the first step towards the resumption of relations between Egypt and other Arab countries.

The Jordanian decision drew support in Al Quds Arabic daily newspaper in Jerusalem which said that solidarity among Arab states is the only alternative to the current rifts and differences plaguing these countries. "Jordan's decision is bound to have its positive impact on the Palestine problem," the paper said.

Government officials along the Gulf region withheld immediate comment on the Jordanian move. "We have nothing to say at the moment," said one Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry official, quoted by the Associated Press and who refused to be identified. "If an official announcement is decided upon (by the Saudi ministry) it will say nothing beyond that it is an internal matter concerning Jordan. This is the kingdom's policy — not to interfere in the affairs of other countries."

Other government officials in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar gave a "no comment" reaction to the Jordanian move.

A spokesman for the Omani Foreign Ministry expressed his country's "pleasure and satisfaction" and said this stemmed from Oman's "deep conviction that it is important and necessary that Egypt return to the Arab ranks because of its effective weight and activity in the service of Arab causes."

The "Jordanian decision is a positive step that consolidates Arab solidarity and Arab interests," the spokesman added.

However, Egypt went ahead with the treaty and the late President Anwar Sadat and then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed the agreement in 1979.

The Gulf states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — are bound together in an economic integration and collective defence alliance known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Of these countries Oman alone decided not to go along with the Arab League resolution to break off diplomatic relations with Egypt in 1978.

Sudan and Somalia also maintained diplomatic ties with Egypt despite the Arab League res-

olution, adopted at the Baghdad summit in 1978, as a preemptive move against Egypt signing the treaty with Israel.

Israel Wednesday hailed the renewal of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan as a positive step which could foster a widening of the Middle East peace process.

Both major factions within Israel's new bipartisan government welcomed the restoration of diplomatic ties.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said: "We would like to see this as a positive development in our region which will give a boost to the idea of... the peace process."

Radical Libya and Syria, however, criticised the Jordanian decision and said the move "violated Arab summit resolutions."

While the Jordanian announcement came as a surprise, relations between the two countries have been marked recently by close consultations despite the absence of formal ties.

Mr. Mubarak said in March, 1983, after meeting King Hussein at a n.p.-aligned conference in New Delhi that there was "complete understanding" between the two countries on the Palestine issue.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 — Koran
17:40 — Cartoons
18:00 — Children's Programme
18:30 — Whizz Kids
19:00 — Programme Review
19:30 — Local Programme
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Arabic Series
21:00 — News in Arabic
21:30 — Series Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 — French Programme
19:00 — News in French
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:00 — Nuclear Debate
20:30 — News in English
21:00 — Feature Film: Before and After

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — News
08:00 — Morning Show
08:30 — News Summary
09:00 — Morning Show
09:30 — Pop Session
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24:00 — Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 — News
06:30 — International Special
06:45 — Financial Review
06:55 — Reflections
07:00 — World News
07:10 — News Summary
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VOICE OF AMERICA

1192.5 & 1193.5 KHz

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Le Carnaval De Nice until Sept. 27 at the French Cultural Centre.

* An exhibition of oil paintings by Lebanese artist Bassam Nemer at the Royal Cultural Centre until Sept. 29.

* Kuwaiti Cultural Week, until Sept. 28 at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An exhibition of Mother-of-Pearl by Lawrence Hamman at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

* "Les feux de la chaudiere" at 19:45 at the French Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

* Piano concert at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre Tel. 44371

British Council Tel. 36147-8

French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009

German Cultural Centre Tel. 44203

Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24049

Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777

Haya Art Centre Tel. 665195

Humei Youth City Tel. 677181

Y.W.C.A. Tel. 41793

Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 664251

Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36511

University of Jordan Library Tel. 845555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m.)

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lwehdeh, 37440.

St. George's Church (Greek Catholic) Jabal Lwehdeh, 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redemptor) Jabal Amman, 41793.

American Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shuneh, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

06:04 — Fajr

05:27 — Sunrise

12:28 — Noon

12:54 — Dhuhr

16:54 — Asr

17:27 — Maghrib

18:59 — Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 33250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:00 — Cairo (MS)

06:15 — Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

06:30 — Bucharest (RJ)

06:45 — Agaba (RJ)

06:55 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

07:05 — Kuwait (RJ)

07:15 — Jeddah (RJ)

07:25 — Cairo (RJ)

07:35 — London (BA)

07:45 — Baghdad (RJ)

07:55 — Frankfurt (LH)

08:05 — London (BA)

08:15 — Athens (RJ)

08:25 — Rome (RJ)

08:35 — Paris (RJ)

08:45 — New York, Vienna (RJ)

08:55 — London (BA)

09:05 — Athens (RJ)

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11:55 — Paris (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ayyoub, Boeker discuss cereal supplies

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-United States trade relations, especially with regard to supplying Jordan with cereals, were the subject of discussion Tuesday in a meeting between Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boeker. Attending the meeting was the economic and agricultural consul at the U.S. embassy in Amman.

Tourism authority studies hot springs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Tourism Authority is currently engaged in studies for developing the Dead Sea and Zaza hot mineral springs for therapeutic purposes, according to a spokesman for the authority. The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has prepared a complete study on developing the two sites through its regional development plan.

Ethiopian trade delegation due Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — Ethiopian minister of foreign trade is due here Friday at the head of an Ethiopian trade delegation on a several day visit to Jordan. The Ethiopian delegation will hold talks with Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani, as well as with officials of a number of concerned ministries, on promoting and developing trade exchange between the two countries.

Jordan to attend FAO conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) consultative committee for statistics experts, which will be held in Rome at the end of the week. Department of Statistics Director General Burhan Al Shraydeh will represent Jordan in the two-week meetings.

ACC to loan JD 256,000 for projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) board of directors has agreed to grant farmers loans amounting to JD 256,000 to finance 52 projects all over the country. The loans will be used to buy agricultural machinery, fodder and to set up drip irrigation networks.

Jordan defends move

(Continued from page 1)

Times Wednesday, Acting Foreign Minister and Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat said that the resumption of diplomatic ties with Egypt would contribute to formulating an Arab stance "capable of facing the challenges and help in achieving a unified Arab action that can gain Arab backing."

Jordan's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt have provoked strong criticism by Syria which accused Jordan of drifting away from the Baghdad Arab summit resolution which ostracised Egypt. But Mr. Hikmat strongly argued against the Syrian accusations and implied that Jordan was not worried about provoking the anger of radical Arab states. "In fact, a thorough and a good reading of the Baghdad summit resolution would show that these accusations are not accurate," he said.

"The Jordanian step does not contravene with the method used to endorse the Baghdad summit resolutions," Mr. Hikmat said. "The Baghdad summit resolutions called on Arab League members to boycott Egypt in case Egypt signed the Camp David agreement with Israel and to work on the containment of the Camp David policies."

According to Mr. Hikmat, the Jordanian move was consistent with resolutions endorsed at a recent summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Casablanca which left the door open for individual Arab countries to choose the appropriate method to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt.

"Moreover, many Arab countries have already established almost formal relations (with Egypt) which lack only a formal framework," Mr. Hikmat said. Mr. Hikmat said that the Jordanian move was not exactly a surprise and that many Arab countries would understand it. He said Jordan was expecting the move to provoke mixed Arab reactions and feels confident that some Arab countries would eventually reevaluate their current stances.

"We believe that countries will get over their reaction and re-evaluate stances after which we believe positive reactions will emerge," he said. Mr. Hikmat said he believes that the Jordanian move will prompt Arab countries to follow suit.

At the United Nations on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri described Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt as a "logical and natural" step. He said Jordan had been contemplating the move for some time, especially when it felt that Egypt under President Mubarak has been taking very constructive steps and working for the interests of the Arab Nation.

In an interview with the Monte Carlo Radio correspondent in New York where he is attending the current sessions of the General Assembly, Mr. Masri said that there had never been an Arab resolution to sever relations with Egypt but there was a recommendation for this by the Arab foreign ministers. "I hope that other Arab states will follow Jordan's step," the minister added. Meanwhile, Information Min-

ister Laila Sharaf said here Wednesday that there was no connection between the visits here by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mrs. Sharaf said that Mr. Murphy has been touring the region to discuss the Lebanese question and his visit to Jordan is in the framework of that tour.

Mr. Arafat's visit to Jordan, Mrs. Sharaf said, was part of a series of visits the PLO leader is making to Jordan to discuss co-ordination of Jordanian-PLO efforts and follow-up Jordanian-Palestinian talks. "This visit should have occurred at an earlier time but was postponed for certain reasons and circumstances," she said.

Commenting on the restoration of diplomatic ties with Egypt, Mrs. Sharaf said it was "a natural result of the development in relations between the two countries since Hosni Mubarak became president of Egypt, and his embarking on the present policies in favour of the Arab Nation and Egypt's interaction with the Arab countries' various issues."

Jordan has been instrumental in returning Egypt to the OIC and has contemplated restoring its relations with Egypt a long time ago, Mrs. Sharaf said.

In an interview with Monte Carlo Radio broadcast later Wednesday, the minister said that the decision to restore Jordan's diplomatic relations with Egypt will be met with positive reactions from the majority of Arab states. Most of the Arab states have trade and other forms of dealings with Egypt and nothing is missing except formal diplomatic ties, the minister said.

In the meantime, former Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i said that the return of Egypt to the Arab Nation was "only natural".

"The Arab national interest requires that Egypt's military and political weight be on the side of the Arabs in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy's aggressive and expansionist designs in the region," Mr. Rifa'i said.

"Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt is a historic, brave and wise one and serves the higher Arab interests," Mr. Rifa'i said.

He said that the decision reflects Jordan's keenness on safeguarding Arab interests and is in line with the policies of King Hussein.

Arab delegates open talks on specifications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of measurements and specification organisations in 16 Arab countries Wednesday opened a two-day meeting at the Holiday Inn in Amman to discuss amendments and to revise work of technical committees of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM).

Delegates will be discussing the application of food specifications and the classification of Arab specification systems in addition to other related topics. Delegates from Jordan, North Yemen, South Yemen, Libya, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Tunisia, Bahrain, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Oman are taking part in the meeting.

AOSM was established in 1965 to unify technical terms and standard specifications.

Ajlouni departs for international Islamic medicine conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni left for Istanbul Wednesday to take part in an international conference on Islamic Medicine. In a pre-departure statement, Dr. Ajlouni said that the conference will discuss, among other things, the effect of Islamic civilisation on that of Europe in the Renaissance era in the field of practical sciences, and also the role of Islam in preserving the individual's health.

Religious ceremonies mark Hijra New Year

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with Arab and Muslim nations, Wednesday celebrated the Hijra New Year. Religious ceremonies were held Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning throughout Jordanian towns and villages, and all government departments and public institutions remained closed to mark the occasion.

Cables

On this anniversary, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament

Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akaf Al Fayed, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, directors of civil defence, public security and intelligence departments, president of the trade unions and senior officials.

Also, on the occasion, King Hussein sent cables of good wishes to Kings and heads of state of Arab countries. In his cables, King Hussein expressed hope that the Arab and Islamic nations will unite to regain their usurped rights and to liberate their occupied lands.

AOID urges Arab industries to assist developing countries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) urged Arab industrial companies and organisations to extend help to the less developed countries in order to accelerate their industrial progress.

The AOID committee, which concluded its meeting here Tuesday, issued a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening the industrial sector in the Arab World and to overcome obstacles which impede the development of these industries.

The committee also suggested that specialised Arab organisations and companies attend the next AOID meeting in order to play a more effective role in Arab industrial progress.

The AOID committee also called on member Arab countries to provide copies of their development schemes and industrial laws to the organisation.

Hungarian officials to review trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Hungarian trade delegation, led by the Hungarian deputy-minister of foreign trade, is due here on Oct. 12 on a several day visit to Jordan. The Hungarian delegation will hold

talks related to promoting and strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries. The delegation will also attend the opening of the Hungarian trade exhibition

By Simonetta Cioni Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Since the early 1960s, when, as a relief organisation, it provided food, clothing and medicine to thousands of Palestinian refugees, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has brought into all of Jordan its intensive and organised assistance.

CRS, the largest private voluntary organisation in the world, was first founded in 1917 and reactivated in 1943 when it gave assistance to refugees of World War I in Europe. It moved to the Middle East region when it realised that the problems of Palestinian refugees were similar to those encountered there, and soon the CRS had gathered enough experience to be able to bring them valuable assistance.

According to a 1984 CRS brochure, "the organisation's main purpose is to mobilise resources: financial, material and managerial, and to make these readily available to local social welfare

agencies throughout the world for programmes designed to aid the people of the developing countries of the world community."

Following these guidelines, CRS programmes in Jordan, as well as in other countries around the world, are not limited to assistance to refugees. In Jordan, CRS activities have been widespread throughout the country and varying in focus: primarily food, medicine and clothing distribution, nutrition education and rural development, as well as identifying the needs of each indigenous society and doing the best to meet these needs.

"In every programme we require part of the assistance to come from the village," says Sister Barbara Cline, Director for the Near East, including Jordan, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza who recently came to Jordan from the West Bank.

People participate

"We feel," Mr. Thomas Tauras

associate director, adds, "that if people actually help in carrying out a project, they will feel that a certain part of it is theirs, that it's not been given to them, but that they had to work for it and will feel more interested in making decisions about how the place will be built, how changes are made. This gives them more interest for the whole picture of the activity and, rather than thinking that they do not have to do anything, they feel that they should, that they have a right to participate if possible. They learn to plan for themselves, raise more for themselves and make decisions about their own community and their lives," he said.

One of the most recent and increasing developments that the CRS has initiated is a MENA development group, whose establishment has been encouraged by newly appointed Executive Director in New York, Lawrence

Jordanian public generally unsurprised by resumption of diplomatic ties with Egypt

By Salamah B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The resumption of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt appeared Wednesday to have come as a much expected and anticipated move by Amman and Cairo according to a survey conducted here by the Jordan Times.

"The move was bound to be taken sooner or later, especially after we have witnessed a stepping-up of trade exchange and visits," said Shawkil Nemeh, a Jordanian businessman, who incidentally arrived from Cairo Monday. "The announcement by Amman and Cairo came only to legitimise an already existing relationship between the two countries," Mr. Nemeh said.

"We have never really felt that relations between Jordan and Egypt were severed," Mr. Yousif Hamdan told the Jordan Times. Mr. Hamdan said that if it was not for occasional references in the media about the boycott, he would have forgotten there was a boycott.

Mr. Hamdan, a student at the University of Jordan said, "Egyptian presence" in Jordan is very strong and evident in the vast Egyptian manpower, television series and cultural ties. "We cannot really boycott Egypt, even if we wanted to," he said.

Firmly with Israel

Most people interviewed agreed that Jordan's relations with Egypt improved considerably since President Hosni Mubarak succeeded the late President Anwar Sadat in 1981. They described President Mubarak's policy as being "more firm with Israel" regarding the issues in the region. "He has a more consistent and predictable policy," said Kamal Bdeir, a 28-year old dentist. Dr. Bdeir cited a positive step in the restoration of relations between Cairo and Amman and said "any move towards an Arab unity has to be a positive move."

The resumption of diplomatic relations between Amman and Cairo seemed very imminent after His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak exchanged messages last month. Royal Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh who visited Cairo last month and conferred with the Egyptian President was the highest ranking Jordanian official to

visit Egypt since the 1979 Arab boycott.

Political advisor for President Mubarak, Dr. Osama Al Baz had earlier visited Jordan on an official visit. There was also a visit last year to Amman by Egyptian Trade Minister Mohammad Mustafa during which a trade exchange protocol, which further consolidated ties, was signed.

Symbolic procedure

According to Jordanians interviewed by the Jordan Times, the Arab boycott of Egypt is only a "symbolic" procedure and that there are many countries who although enjoy diplomatic relations with each other "do not have strong ties."

"It is not often necessary to have diplomatic relations with a country in order to have a full-scale cooperation," said Sufyan Abdullah, a teacher of history. Citing an example, he said that although Spain does not have diplomatic relations with Israel, it has very strong economic ties as well as cultural exchange, mainly through the private sector.

Although it is sometimes quite difficult to gauge public opinion in Jordan, the Kingdom's move appeared to be a "fait accompli" in the light of the much improved relations between the two countries throughout the last two years.

Agriculture

In the agricultural field the two main problems are inadequate irrigation and antiquated harvesting methods which result in waste, and damaged products. Over the next three years the CRS hopes to institute a score of projects throughout the region, designed to expand income-generating opportunities for women, provide management training and "soft-term" loans to fledgling businessmen, and increase small farm

productivity through more efficient agricultural technology.

The MENA programme should intensify these efforts by sharing experience, knowledge and even personnel between these countries. "From a country like Egypt," says Mr. Tauras, who has just recently been transferred to Jordan, "where our organisation has made great progress in mechanisation, a consultant can be sent to other countries in this same area."

Today, CRS is an active participant in 44 projects throughout the Kingdom.

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Thursday Sept. 27

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For English classes
Starting Sept. 29

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Registration: Morning 9:00-12:00
Afternoon 3:00-6:00



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End of the fiction

THE RESUMPTION of diplomatic relations with Egypt lays to rest, to some extent, the fiction of the Arab boycott of Egypt. If the boycott has shown anything, it has been that the Arabs need Egypt more than Egypt needs the Arabs. It is noteworthy that the break in diplomatic relations meant very little in practical terms, as bilateral trade, labour, education, tourism and military relations were maintained between Egypt and most of the other Arab states. In some cases, such as Iraq, bilateral ties increased in recent years.

In other words, the boycott was symbolic, and we have grown up sufficiently in recent years to recognise that drowning men don't clutch at symbols. Though the Arab World is not all drowning, most of it is doing little better than treading water. We are getting nowhere fast, either on the war front or the peace front. We see Egypt not necessarily as the source of our salvation, but more as an essential link in the long road back to more coherent inter-Arab ties. It may work, it may not.

It is also noteworthy that the reasons for which the Arabs first broke ties with Egypt in 1979 have not really changed. The Camp David peace treaty with Israel is still there. Egypt and Israel have exchanged embassies, and tourist and trade ties are in force. It is true that President Mubarak has taken a more strict and deliberate posture towards the Israelis, but the Israeli flag still flies over Cairo. So what?

Good question. So what does it matter if Israel and Egypt have diplomatic ties? The rest of the Arabs have been unable to do anything about it. Egypt is committed firmly to its Camp David peace treaty, if at a low level of enthusiasm when it comes to the kisses and bearhugs that President Sadat favoured for the benefit of American television producers more than for his own people.

To restore relations is simply to recognise reality. A symbolic boycott seems to have resulted in no practical value. Playing footsies with Egypt is an impractical and slightly undignified long-term proposition, though it worked well for a few years. The big question remains unanswered: With or without Egypt, what do the Arabs propose to do about turning around the trend of immobility and directionlessness that has defined their regional and global policies for so long. The question cannot be answered in Cairo.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The Hijra lessons

THE ARAB and Islamic nations Wednesday celebrate the New Hijra Year, which marks an anniversary of the emergence of Islam and the advent of enlightenment to the millions of people on earth. It is a dear occasion for all Muslims and an anniversary which helps to revive hope in the hearts of millions of people who have been suffering from injustice and tyranny.

Prophet Mohammad believed in right and justice and taught the people to believe in God and he always used to say "God is with us". The anniversary of the prophet's emigration from Mecca to Medina marked for the Arabs the beginning of the Islamic era and victory over injustice and the forces of evil.

This anniversary should now help us to start preparing for victory over the present forces of evil, fear, desperation and hopelessness. It should evoke the spirit of sacrifice and hard work in every Muslim's heart. The anniversary should serve as a reminder for all Muslims that like their prophet who came out victorious over the enemies of Islam they too can achieve victory through unity and sacrifice.

Al Dustour: Arab-serving decision

JORDAN'S DECISION to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt is a brave and positive one, reflecting the country's constant and firm national policies.

The decision was a wise one, coming at a difficult stage the Arab Nation is passing through, and in the midst of confusion and disarray in Arab ranks. It is a constructive step that is bound to help joint Arab action and gives hope to all Arabs of unity and solidarity.

The restoration of diplomatic ties can be described as a wise step towards regaining Egypt to the Arab fold, pulling it away from the enemy's field of influence and bringing it closer to its natural environment. It is a step which reflects Jordan's appreciation of Egypt's national stands and support for Arab causes and the Palestinian people's struggle. The decision to restore the diplomatic relations came after deep consideration of the present circumstances and the situation in the Middle East, and in appreciation of the role which President Mubarak is playing to safeguard Arab interests and rights. It is a step designed to restore Arab solidarity and bring about unity among Arab states.

Sawt Al Shaab: Meeting Egypt halfway

THE RESTORATION of diplomatic relations with Egypt was bound to take place sooner or later since Egypt belongs to the Arab Nation and must remain so. The Jordanian decision to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt is necessary to foil Israel's attempts to exploit divisions in the Arab World for its own benefit, and was in appreciation of Egypt's national stand, its support for Arab causes and its president's endeavours on the regional and international levels to regain for the Palestinians their rights in their homeland.

Once Egypt has returned to the Arab fold, the way will be paved for joint Arab efforts to settle the Middle East question and end Israel's hegemony on the region. Egypt will double its efforts to solve the Palestine problem, end the Iran-Iraq war and save Lebanon from its ordeal.

President Mubarak has opened the way for his country's return to the Arab Nation by adopting a policy which is bound to help the Arabs regain their rights, has supported Iraq in the face of Iran's aggression and made it a condition that Israel should end its occupation of Arab territory before normal Egyptian-Israeli relations can be started.

Restoring relations with Egypt is an attempt to meet that country halfway and a step that would take us towards joint struggle for unity.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Rising interest rates reflect mounting inequality

SAN FRANCISCO — It still amazes me how vital interest has become in the economic life of the Western world. Interest rates are sometimes regarded almost as the key economic indicator. If interest rates are high, that means less capital for investment; if low, it means more capital.

I also know that interest is regarded as unjust in the eyes of Muslims. I see advertisements for Saudi banks that neither charge nor pay interest. I have read that interest is not allowed in Pakistani banks save on foreign deposits and loans. There is an expression in Arabic, *qard al-hassan*, a "beautiful loan", which means an interest-free loan.

Many Westerners would simply say that the Muslim attitude just reflects medieval beliefs which, many hundred years ago, were current in the Western world as well. Now they have given way to more "modern" attitudes. Perhaps so, but anyone who has studied Western economics has encountered the disdain classical economists had for "rents". Rents were unearned income, just a cut from someone else's income. The classical economists all believed that a sound economy had to rest on a productive basis. Real wealth was created through work, not from cutting into someone else's income. Anyway, is that not akin to robbery?

The idea that a sound economy must rest on production is probably as widespread among economists today as it was in the days of the classical economists.

Today in America, some 14 per cent of total national income is due to interest. That percentage has been growing in recent years. Suppose within a decade the figure should rise to 25 per cent or more? That would mean one out of four earning Americans would be living not from producing but from cashing in on unearned income deriving from interest.

That would mean millions of Americans would live from something Muslims call unjust. As I understand it, Muslim banks take depositors' money and invest it in productive enterprises. They seek to make a profit. Then they pay back a share of that profit to the investor. If they compete with interest-paying banks, they naturally will try to match and even exceed what an interest-paying bank can offer. That means there is a mandate on the Muslim bank to invest in a productive effort of some kind, be it in goods or services. That creates jobs and jobs in turn spread the wealth around. That makes sense for so egalitarian a religion as Islam.

Clearly, if 100 per cent of all income came from interest there would be no production, no business, and in the end no wealth. Both Muslim and Western classical economists realise that somewhere there must be production. However, the key question is where.

In the U.S. we have a mighty economy. But a bigger and bigger share is services (already over 65 per cent) and a smaller and smaller share is production. Our chief production is high-tech and defence industries and agriculture. Bit by bit other manufacturing (autos, steel, chemicals) is dwindling.

However, imports have been rising fast. And with a very strong dollar they will be rising more and more. So we can begin to see a new world division of function: more services and consumption in the "First World", and more production in the "Third World."

Our own "non-beautiful loans" will go for more and more services and consumption in the U.S. and if they go abroad they will be for production. Naturally we charge interest, and those interest payments come back home to make for a "beautiful life" in the home country.

So we begin to see answers. The prominence of interest income in the Western world is helping to create greater gaps between the rich and the poor. Interest creates inequalities. And so the Muslim practice which so many Westerners find peculiar is in fact a powerful tool to fight inequality. And as important is its emphasis on production.

Ethiopia takes first tentative steps towards Communism

By Andrew Hill
Reuter

ADDIS ABABA — Ethiopia this month took the first tentative steps towards orthodox Communism in a move applauded by Moscow but greeted with disappointment by Western states.

The formal launch on Sept. 10 of a Communist Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE) crowned celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the revolution which toppled Emperor Haile Selassie and installed a leftist leadership.

Western officials say that although party membership is thought to be a tiny fraction of the country's estimated 41 million people, its creation has confirmed Ethiopia as Moscow's staunchest ally in Africa.

The party launch was also the first move towards bringing civ-

ilians into the military administration that has run Ethiopia since Emperor Selassie was ousted by the army and his 50-year backward feudal reign ended.

Four civilians were brought into the politburo to sit beside the six members of the Military Council which has run Ethiopia since the revolution.

The 1,700 delegates at the party's founding congress were dominated by the military and civil servants, accounting for 69 per cent of those present. Ethiopian officials said.

But the fact that workers made up 19 per cent and peasants — 85 per cent of the population — filled the other 12 per cent was a further sign of moves to bring civilians into power.

Grigory Romanov, a leading member of the Soviet Politburo, hailed the founding of the party as

the start of a new era of co-operation between the Communist bloc and Ethiopia.

Ethiopian officials said it would be some time, possibly years, before the party writes a constitution to turn Ethiopia into a "peoples democratic republic" with a national assembly.

Until then, they said, the Military Council would continue, dovetailing with the party and spearheading efforts to develop Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world.

As well as its inherited backwardness, Ethiopia is in the grip of a drought as serious as 1974 when more than 200,000 people died, according to the government.

It also faces rebellions in the northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigray, tying up much of the country's 250,000-strong army, the

biggest in Africa, in costly campaigns.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, ruler since 1977, has said that these provinces will get no more privileges than any of the country's other myriad nationalities.

Ethiopian officials concede that the secessionist rebellions are a costly drain on the country's meagre resources and a major stumbling block to national development.

But Lt-Col Mengistu will not allow the country to be dismembered and has the backing of army leaders who view him as nationalist rather than a tribal leader. Western officials said.

Lt-Col. Mengistu originally announced plans to form the country's first legal political party in 1979. But the process of establishing a political base in a nat-

ion emerging from the 19th century took longer than expected. Ethiopian officials say.

The delay had given some non-Communist countries hope that Ethiopia, an ancient Christian civilisation, might make overtures to the West.

But few Western officials now believe that such an opening is still possible. Lt-Col. Mengistu has become one of the most strident critics of "imperialism" in the "Third World."

While Moscow provides the arms needed to fight the secessionists, the West is giving tens of thousands of tonnes of food each year to prevent the drought turning into a catastrophe on the scale of 1974.

"It is only right that we should stay here. Call it foot in the door or what you will, it would be wrong of

the West to abandon this nation," one Western ambassador said.

Some of the international community here doubts the country's commitment to Communism and still expect an opening to the West.

But others have no such illusions and point out that while the newly-created party may be small and includes the entire administration, the groundwork for Communism has been steadily laid over the years.

Since 1978, organisations led by educated people have been created to bring Marxist ideals to the countryside.

One such campaign — cited by the leadership as a shining success — is a drive to eradicate an illiteracy rate which ran at 93 per cent in 1974 but which has now been brought down to 37 per cent.



Reagan drops anti-Soviet rhetoric

By William Scally
Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — President Reagan abandoned the anti-Soviet rhetoric that has marked his political career in a speech Monday to the U.N. General Assembly aimed at both Moscow and the American electorate.

"Mr. Reagan made no new proposals on arms control but held out the possibility of 'restraint' on space weapons if the Soviet Union returned to the nuclear negotiating table."

He also called for regular ministerial meetings that could lead to a U.S.-Soviet summit and for an unprecedented exchange of military information.

Mr. Reagan, who in the past has spoken of a Soviet "evil empire"

made no direct criticism of the Soviet Union Monday.

His call for observance of international human rights standards was couched in general terms.

A brief reference to Afghanistan avoided mention of Soviet military intervention but called for a negotiated solution that "protects the legitimate security interests of all neighbouring countries."

Mr. Reagan's past tough line has generated anxiety both in Europe and in the United States, and Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale has sharply attacked the president's record on East-West relations.

Moving further along the path of conciliation that began in a speech last January, Mr. Reagan declared: "We are ready for con-

structive negotiations with the Soviet Union."

In a departure from his prepared text, Mr. Reagan said he could see the U.S. and Soviet representatives sitting in the General Assembly chamber and added: "It's clear there is not a great distance between us."

His specific proposals included a call for consideration of exchanges of five-year military plans and of experts to monitor nuclear weapons tests.

Observers said the chances of a positive response to this idea from the usually secretive Soviet Union were remote, a fact that Mr. Reagan seemed to acknowledge when he said that "some may dismiss such proposals as simplistic American idealism."

Neither Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko nor his aides joined in applauding Mr. Reagan's speech.

The first direct Soviet reaction to the president's remarks was on Wednesday when Secretary of State George Shultz talked with Mr. Gromyko in New York.

Mr. Reagan meets Mr. Gromyko in Washington on Friday in his first substantive talks with a senior Soviet official since he took office.

Mr. Shultz is expected to go into further detail on another proposal Mr. Reagan made on Monday — an "umbrella" arrangement under which various arms control negotiations can operate.

The president did not explain how it would work other than to call it a "road map".

Europeans pin cautious hopes on Gromyko's Washington talks

By Sidney Weiland
Reuter

LONDON — European governments are putting cautious but higher-than-usual hopes on Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's talks at the U.N. and in Washington this week.

While restrained in public statements, diplomats believe President Reagan's first meeting with a politburo leader could unlock doors that seemed only weeks ago to be firmly closed.

Senior Western officials say no quick breakthrough is expected but that the encounter itself suggests Moscow is probably ready to explore a way back into arms negotiations. The degree of Soviet readiness is still to be established, they say.

The United States, in a marked softening of approach since Moscow walked out of missile talks in Geneva last November, has said it is willing to consider various trade-offs in weaponry as well as changes in the format of the negotiations.

Mr. Reagan's offer to "break down the barriers" between the superpowers, in a conciliatory U.N. speech Monday, was quickly welcomed by NATO diplomats.

Communist officials, equally doubtful about quick results, say Mr. Gromyko's talks are serious. They reject speculation in some quarters that he is meeting Mr. Reagan only to administer a public snub just six weeks before the U.S. presidential election.

First comments from Moscow after Mr. Reagan's speech were cool, but Western analysts said a considered Soviet reaction was unlikely until Mr. Gromyko addresses the U.N. on Thursday. He meets the president on Friday.

Mr. Reagan offered regular high-level and other contacts with Moscow to exchange military data and discuss regional crises.

In his U.N. General Assembly speech, he suggested a still-undefined "bigger umbrella" approach to arms talks — a road map showing where they might lead over 20 years or so — rather than putting all expectations on a single set of negotiations.

West European officials believe this may be the way to tempt Moscow back to the table and also to expand the debate to include Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" plans for space-based defences.

Both West Germany and Britain are pressing Washington to agree to negotiate on space before another arms race develops.

Mr. Reagan said Monday he hoped broadened space weapons talks could start by the new year, and hinted he may be ready to discuss a freeze on testing anti-satellite systems.

The West European view of Mr. Gromyko's trip to the U.N. has changed in the last two weeks, since the meeting with Mr. Reagan was added. Until then, diplomats expected only an acrimonious exchange with U.S. and other Western officials.

Now, they are questioning whether Mr. Gromyko's agreement to meet the president means a real shift in Moscow's policy or only a tactical decision designed to stall U.S. development of a sophisticated space weapons system.

Many NATO analysts think Mr. Gromyko decided to go to Washington, running the risk of helping Mr. Reagan's reelection, because Moscow now believes the president will win on Nov. 6 and that it is time to seek a face-saving way back to negotiations on arms and possibly other issues.



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The veteran Soviet minister, 75, will also meet Democratic challenger Walter Mondale and Secretary of State George Shultz.

The likely scenario as sketched out in NATO capitals is that some form of arms talks will resume by next spring.

Diplomats believe a formula will be found to embrace space weapons as well as strategic and medium-range missiles.

Moscow offered space talks this month but balked when Washington asked for a broader agenda to include missiles also.

"There is a widespread feeling that things may be on the move," a senior Western arms control official said. Others are more reserved, saying Moscow's real intentions will become clearer only after the meeting with Mr. Reagan.

U.S. officials have told European governments that Mr. Reagan's interest in arms control is real and goes beyond electoral considerations and that real changes in the American position are likely if he wins the election.

Many European experts are looking for a regular dialogue to take negotiations beyond arms control, into such delicate areas as the Middle East, the Gulf war, Central America and other regional problems that could otherwise get out of hand.

THE LITERARY CORNER

Fakhri Qa'war writes as a painter

I HAVE always associated Fakhri Qa'war, the well-known Jordanian columnist and writer, with an overwhelming article he once wrote on a poor woman, possessing only three piasters, who went to a store selling chickens to buy some chicken legs, the only thing she could afford. From that day on, to me he stood as a capable writer who could most artistically and critically penetrate deep into the lives and ways of life of his people. Not only that, but he has always been responsive to the Jordanian citizen's needs and thus reflected them in his various writings.

Fakhri Qa'war was born in the Jordanian town of Ejfou-H (bordering Iraq) in 1945. He completed his elementary studies at Al-Latin School in Fheis which he later left for Mafrqa where he completed his preparatory schooling. In Zaqra, the writer finished his first and second secondary classes. He graduated from 'Al-Ibrahimeh Secondary School of Jerusalem with an Egyptian Tawjihi (secondary certificate). The author studied law for only one year at the Law School of the Egyptian University of E'n Shams. He later graduated with a B.A. degree in Arabic literature and language from the Arab University of Beirut. The author worked as a private and public employee. He taught Arabic at various Jordanian schools; he also worked as a literary editor and as an editing secretary at

Jordanian dailies. The author wrote three thousand articles published in the Jordanian and Arab papers and magazines characterised by a special literary blend. The author has nine published works: "Three Voices", "Why Did Suzy Cry Too Much?", "Playing Chess is Forbidden", "The Turtle and the Children", "From the Coloured Butterfly to the Emigrant Birds", "I am the Patriarch", "The Barrel", "Farhan Farah Sa'eed", and "The Birds' Homeland." Some of his works were translated into Russian, Serbian, Polish, and English.

Out of Qa'war's numerous works I was most impressed by "Farhan Farah Sa'eed" to which I will devote today's article. The diary of "Farhan Farah Sa'eed" presents a distinct human model of an ordinary citizen. The man is not talented; he is incapable of controlling his life and that of his family. Farhan Farah Sa'eed (to use the full name as the author does) is an unlucky and unfortunate person; the moment he overcomes an obstacle, a thousand other obstacles pop up in his way. Misfortune is his permanent and indivisible companion. The man is a kind-hearted school teacher, much devoted to fulfilling his noble message: teaching. In the process of fulfilling this holy objective, the poor, naive citizen encounters very weird happenings.

I called Fakhri Qa'war a painter because he is superbly

excellent in presenting quite ironically (although hard at times) some colourful and rich portraits of his leading character Farhan Farah Sa'eed, which reminds one of Voltaire's CANDIDE. He could employ his story-telling talent, his long journalistic experience, his lively and distinguished style, his satirical sense, and practical vision in drawing the character of Farhan Farah Sa'eed. In the following passage, Qa'war introduces his leading character to the column writer who started a series of writings on the man:

"The writer was astonished, and started at the man's face to ascertain what he just heard. Here before him stands Farhan Farah Sa'eed on whom he wrote a series of articles. Here he is with his long nose which looks like the 'nose' of a jug used for cleansing (Muslim's Wudu)! His eye-glasses are as thick as those of Mohammad Abdul-Wahhab (the famous Egyptian singer). His complexion is so dark, which does not let his mustache appear vividly. His neck is long to the extent that makes his head vibrate like a tuning fork. His old-fashioned neck-tie slid down under the small collar of his shirt.

The author alluded to a common practice of the 'age of consumption': students disdaining teachers:

"One of his students, coming from the back rows, stood before him and pulled him lightly. His eye-glasses slid down and

settled on the highest point of his nose. Farhan opened his eyes wide and said:

— What do you want boy? The student, tacit as a rock, did not say a word. He insisted on insulting the teacher; he pinched his cheeks and caught his ears and twisted them."

Mr. Qa'war adds another trait to his literary insight: a comprehensive knowledge of the minute details of his people's lives. He moves Farhan into all walks of life, including a T.V. programme entitled "Think and Win," which the author utilises to criticise the poor standard of education of the citizens.

The best painting in Farhan Farah Sa'eed's diary is the car accident which Farhan is entangled in and the unbelievable bureaucratic maze that he goes through.

The author makes it look more gloomy and hopeless than Kafka's Joseph K.'s "Trial".

The judge asked Farhan: "Are you guilty?" Farhan told the judge all the details of the accidents. The judge said: "Why are you telling me all this? Answer specifically, do you plea guilty or not guilty?"

Farhan said: "I narrated to you all the details, and I do not know whether I am guilty or not."

The judge said: "This does not help the court."

Farhan said: "What am I to say in order to

help the court?"

The judge said: "Say that you have run over the boy and that you are guilty. This is the safest way out."

Farhan, welcoming any solution which secures his way out of the nightmare, said:

"I have run over that boy and I am guilty."

One might imagine that Farhan's troubles would come to an end, but this is just the beginning of his agony which will involve him in an unprecedented bureaucratic dilemma — he is told to go to Irbid (place of issue) to pick up his driver's licence, and there begins a new series of bureaucratic measures.

Farhan ends up as a madman who occasionally escapes from the asylum and performs some lunatic acts to make his fellow citizens happy.

Farhan winds up in a meeting arranged by the country's intellectuals for the purpose of condemning the Israeli criminal act of assassinating the West Bank mayors. He incites the drunk intellectuals to adopt some serious measures for the support of the Arab brethren in the occupied territories. He recommends:

"Write a statement and cable it to the press! An important statement issued by the White Pens Club! Yes."

"One of the men applauded, the second belched, the third drank, the fourth got sick and the fifth wrote an important statement."

"As for Farhan, he went back to the asylum, quite appeased and satisfied."

Fakhri Qa'war exploits his vehicle — Farhan — to the maximum (he was really cruel to him at times). However, he sometimes resorts to explicit criticism of the ill practices dictated by routine and red tape. In reference to the unjustified procedures of the court, he says:

"There is no big accident deserving all this crisis: if only routine was less acute and detailed."

The writer also resorts to some absurd approaches:

"It occurred to me to push Farhan Farah Sa'eed to commit suicide but his attempt fails due to his hesitant, cowardly, and fearful nature towards people and things." Could it be that Mr. Qa'war is alluding to the ordinary Arab citizen? If he is, I am afraid that I will have to disagree with him.

With the exception of some unnecessary repetitions and subjectivity, Qa'war was successful in presenting a pioneering literary work which raises many essential issues, locally and nationally, that cannot be handled in such a short article. I commend Fakhri Qa'war for his artistic choice of words, mastering Arabic and also for his day to day follow up of his citizens' needs, requirements, problems, contributions and limitations.

— Ahmad Jaber

Farhan Farah Sa'eed

Randa Habib's Corner

They keep us awake

LATELY I am seriously thinking to move from my house. What I used to believe to be a fairly calm area turned to be real hell.

You who suffer like me have certainly guessed that my home is in Um Uthaina. There, a big water reservoir is being erected, and we are happy for that because the city surely needs it. We are also happy to see that those works are going full throttle. When my son complains that the noise keeps him from hearing the TV, I answer, "You should bear it because it is necessary for the country." When we are compelled to keep the windows shut in this heat so that we can hear the telephone, we say to ourselves, "no big project can be made without hassle."

But that at night we are not able to sleep because of the noise made by the compressors is something I do not understand. We agree that works should go on day and night to finish more quickly, but why is it that the noisiest jobs are left for the night. This has been going on for one month and it looks as if it is going to take much longer. We have tried to sleep with all the windows closed, we have tried cotton balls in the ears, we have counted sheep, with no result, finally we called the police and 15 minutes later it was beautifully peaceful. Yippee, but our happiness was short lived because the second night the whole ordeal started again. What do you think we should do? Call the police every day or ... move?

Ghana's oral folklore updated to educate

By Robert Weller
Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana — It is said in Ghana that if Ananse the spider is allowed to die, the community will be destroyed.

Ananse, the word for spider in the Akan group of languages spoken in much of Ghana, Ivory Coast and Togo, is the culprit in thousands of centuries-old morality plays.

The oral tradition of the spider stories, their transmission by word of mouth from generation to generation, is what keeps this West African country's cultural heritage alive, said dramatist Fua Sutherland.

The stories, in which "Ananse gets what he deserves but is never killed or destroyed," teach people right from wrong, added Ben Abdallah, culture secretary in the military government of flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings.

Mr. Abdallah said in an interview that Ananse the spider, a folklore figure from the misty past, is meant to embody the follies and foibles of "everyman" in Ghanaian society. Ananse's behaviour demonstrates what harm can come of greed, lies and stupidity, the culture secretary said.

"The stories are always changing," said Mrs. Sutherland. "Now they include radios, televisions and other modern things, even political things — but they retain a sense of where they are."

Told in villages by firelight, and lately brought to the stage in Accra, the capital, the distinction between players and audience is frequently blurred.

Both gather in the shape of a horseshoe, the narrator sitting in the middle, said Willie Addo of the University of Accra's Institute of African Studies.

The story begins with singing, drumming and clapping. If someone fails to sing or clap, the person next to him is likely to "pinch him to make him alive," added Mr. Addo. If a story gets boring, the audience may shout: "This is an Ananse story. Tell it well!"

At the Ghana Arts Centre, in a shed a few hundred meters from the pounding Atlantic surf, an old man named Bobia Asifo narrated the story of "how Ananse tries to prove that he is wise."

Several players stand, representing Ananse and his family, and receive word that Ananse's

father-in-law, a paramount chief, has died.

Ananse determines, the narrator says, to show his love for the great chief.

He draws his children around him and explains that although there will be a great feast at the chief's wake, which will last several weeks, relatives must not eat.

"You must not disgrace me," he says, admonishing the children to observe the fast.

Ananse himself has no intention of fasting. Each night he steals into the kitchen to gorge himself. And every morning, the children are accused of breaking the fast and disgracing their father.

"When they can stand the abuse no longer," the narrator says, "they set a trap for the thief."

The children hide in the kitchen "and catch a man chopping (eating) in the dark. They begin hitting him, not realising he is their father," the narrator says, as the players slap the thief.

Then grandmother arrives with a lamp and the thief is exposed. The children wag their fingers at the father, reminding him: "You told us not to disgrace you by eating."

"Yes," Ananse reports, "but you never told me not to disgrace you."

The moral in the story: "When the elderly advise the young, the young should offer guidance in return."

Mrs. Sutherland, chairman of the Ghana National Commission for children as well as a playwright, said time is set aside in schools for children to tell Ananse stories "because they concern everything that is important to us."

She wrote, "The marriage of Anansewa" for the stage. It tells of how the greedy Ananse promised his daughter, Anansewa, to four chiefs and each paid for her.

To Ananse's horror, three of the chiefs showed up at the same time, demanding the bride. Ananse orders his daughter to play dead. Then, when the fourth, and richest, chief arrives, Ananse fakes a trance and performs a ritual to bring her back to life.

Up to this day Mr. Addo said, the Ananse stories remain very much alive. People go from house to house to hear the stories, he said. And since most towns have no electricity, Ananse is the prime entertainment.

Cassava provides calories but causes disfiguring

Cassava provides calories for millions of poor people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It also provides cyanide, and recent studies have connected it with disfiguring and crippling diseases.

By Rob Stepany

LONDON — Cassava, a starchy food which keeps millions of people throughout the tropics alive, has recently been implicated as the cause of several medical problems ranging from disfiguring to crippling.

Also known as tapioca and manioc, this tuber provides for more than 50 per cent of the calorie requirements of some 200 million tropical Africans, according to the business magazine Modern Africa. Five hundred million people may be eating enough cassava to put them in jeopardy of diseases caused by insufficient iodine in their diets, according to the latest issue of the World Health Organisation (WHO) journal, World Health Forum.

Cassava is resistant to drought and insect pests, tolerates poor soils and can be left in the ground for up to two years to provide a reserve supply of food when other crops fail.

It is high in calories but low in protein. A map of where it is consumed in large quantities in Africa matches neatly with a map showing incidences of kwashiorkor, the protein deficiency disease of children.

Worldwide, some 105 million tonnes are produced yearly: 40 per cent in Africa, 30 per cent in

Latin America (especially Brazil) and 30 per cent in Asia (especially Indonesia and Thailand). Manufactured "tapioca" — the starch is washed from the tubers and dried — is used in the North in puddings, biscuits and confectionery.

The tuber contains high levels of the cyanide-based poison prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid). Much of the poison is routinely removed by soaking, pounding and boiling the tuber.

But even small amounts of cyanide can prevent the human body from taking up iodine. In areas where the soil is already poor in iodine, a condition true of much of the tropics, cyanide can greatly increase the risk of the disfiguring goitres — swellings of the thyroid gland which are not only uncomfortable, but can compress the windpipe and veins.

Also, iodine deficiency in pregnant women can cause cretinism in their babies. This is a largely irreversible condition of severe mental and physical retardation. Children born to such women also run the risk of being deaf, mute and spastic.

In much of the industrialised world, and in "Third World" nations such as Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador, iodine is added to salt to prevent goitre. But the efficiency of doing this across remote areas of Africa — where people may get

their salt from local deposits — is doubtful. Risks to children can be lowered by injecting mothers with iodine oil, but much of tropical Africa lacks health services capable of carrying out such a programme nationally.

Cassava is not the only food to contain "goitrogens", the term used for substances thought to cause goitres. They are also found in turnips and cabbage, and there are grounds for thinking that people whose diet is largely based on these vegetables are at risk. The inhabitants of Sicily, for example, eat large quantities of cabbage — and are prone to goitres.

Another recent WHO report cited a case where the cyanide in cassava affected a population much more drastically.

In 1981, more than 1,000 women and children living in drought-stricken areas of Mozambique were victims of an epidemic of a type of spastic paralysis. Symptoms included weakness, impaired coordination, and visual and speech disturbances. Those stricken reported that the disease often appeared suddenly, with fever, pain, headache, dizziness, vomiting and leg pain. The victims later developed difficulty in walking.

Scientists working for the Mozambique Ministry of Health at first believed that the disease was caused by a virus, but a lengthy investigation — the results of which were recently published in World Health Forum — implicated the bitter variety of cas-

sava. Cassava species are traditionally divided into the "sweet" and "bitter" varieties. People prefer the sweet, but during times of scarcity turn to the bitter, which contains much higher levels of prussic acid and requires more beating and boiling.

During the Mozambique drought, people apparently did not bother to go through the lengthy preparation process. The paralysis victims all had extremely high blood cyanide levels consistent

with chronic cyanide poisoning.

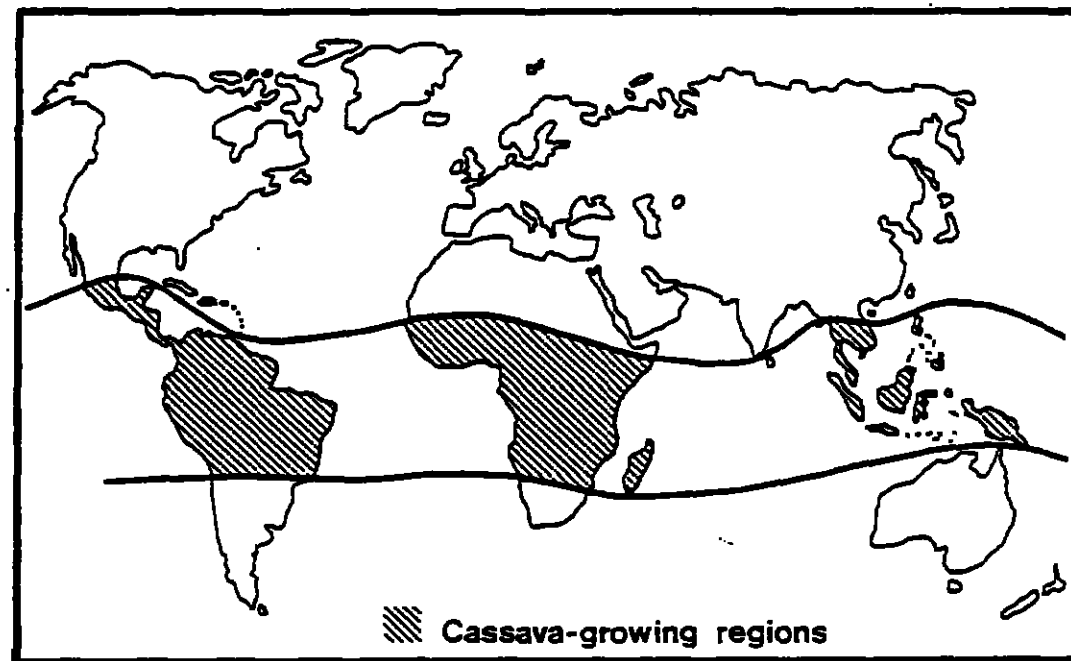
The investigation found that adult men were largely spared the disease, though they too had consumed the dangerous cassava. It is now thought that dietary deficiency was also involved, as women and children get less food overall than the men. No baby contracted the disease; but their babies are not fed on cassava.

In areas of Mozambique with adequate food supplies, the paralysis did not strike. Thus coastal areas where people had access to

fish and towns where commercial foods were available were spared.

The Mozambique discoveries come at a time when more Africans are being forced by drought into heavy reliance on cassava as a main food.

After four years of drought, Mozambique is facing widespread famine. Nearly five million people are thought to be affected. Though the 1981 epidemic of paralysis has not yet repeated itself, conditions are such that it could do so at any time. — Earthscan feature.



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Jordan to attend ASPU conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the third conference of the Asian Sport Press Union (ASPU) scheduled to be held in the South Korean capital of Seoul Thursday. The two-day conference will discuss a number of issues of interest to the ASPU and its future programmes. The Jordanian Sport Information Association (JSIA) will, for the first time since its establishment last year, take part in such an international conference and it is a member in the International Arab and Asian Sport Federations. The JSIA Secretary General Waqqas Al Tal left Amman Wednesday to represent Jordan.

Mugabi demolishes Gonzalez

LONDON (R) — Uganda's John Mugabi needed only 140 seconds to show why he is a major threat to World Boxing Council (WBC) super-welterweight champion Thomas Hearns of the United States.

Mugabi, 24, a silver medalist at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, recorded his 23rd win in as many professional contests when he knocked out American Mike Gonzalez in the first round of their scheduled 10-round bout here.

Mugabi had his opponent on the run from the first bell and after a flurry of punches he dropped Gonzalez with a short right to the body.

The American was up at the count of two only for another left hook to drop him to the floor.

Gonzalez was felled once more before the referee counted him out.

Britain's heavyweight Frank Bruno, whose unbeaten run was ended by American James "Bongcrusher" Smith last May, also had an impressive win when he knocked out Canadian Ken Lakusta in the second round of their 10-round fight.

Bruno kept Lakusta at bay with his stiff left jab before slamming home a fierce right which sent Lakusta tumbling.

Connors beats McEnroe

SEATTLE, Washington (AP) — Jimmy Connors beat the world's top-ranked men's tennis pro, John McEnroe, in a three-set "grudge tie" Tuesday night in the Peugeot invitational exhibition tennis match at Seattle's Kingdome.

Connors, who lost to McEnroe in this year's U.S. Open, staged a comeback after dropping the first set 3-6. Connors took the last two sets 6-2 and 6-3.

Earlier, Billie Jean King came from behind to defeat Canada's Carling Bassett in three sets.

King lost the first set 3-6 to Bassett, a 16-year-old semifinalist in this year's U.S. Open.

Navratilova sweeps through

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova swept past Lisa Spain of the United States 6-3, 6-0 in the first-round victory of a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament Tuesday.

In a second round match, second-seeded Pam Shriver needed less than an hour to defeat unseeded fellow-American Terry Phelps 6-2, 6-0.

Other seeded players scoring

first round victories were fourth-seeded Zina Garrison, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over unseeded Elizabeth Sayers of Australia, and eighth-seeded Kathy Rinaldi, who beat unseeded fellow-American Michelle Torres 6-2, 6-0.

Fifth-seeded Bonnie Gadusek became the tournament's first major upset victim when she was defeated 6-1, 6-3 by unseeded fellow-American Alycia Moulton in a second round match.

Olympic gold medallist turns pro

DETROIT (R) — Olympic flyweight gold medallist Steve McCrory signed a professional contract Wednesday and announced he would make his debut on October 19 in New York against Leonardo Alvarado of Mexico.

The fight will precede the Marvin Hagler-Mustafa Hamsho world middleweight title fight at Madison Square Garden.

McCrory, 20, younger brother of World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight champion Milton McCrory, was one of nine American gold medal winners.

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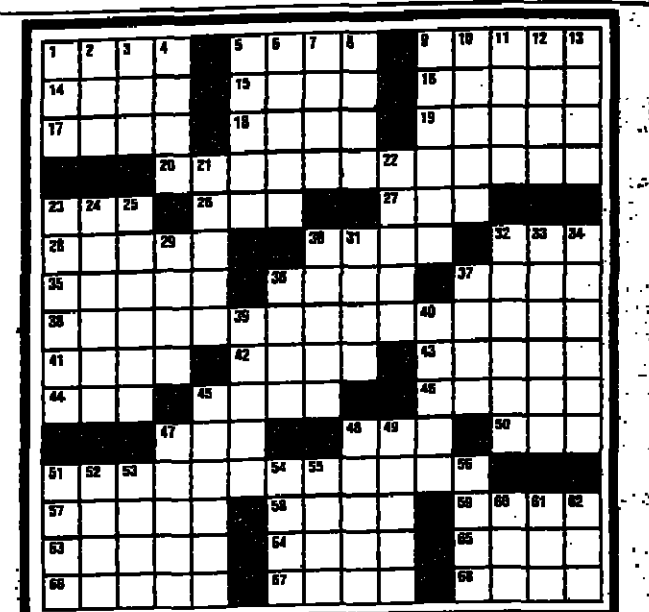
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(Those who applied before need not apply again).

THE Daily Crossword by Arnold Moss



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

- ACROSS
- 1 Tease jokingly
 - 5 Ill-mannered guys
 - 9 Kind of iron
 - 14 Away from the wind
 - 15 Fit of shivering
 - 16 Toss
 - 17 Twelve month
 - 18 Plantaceous
 - 19 Ria
 - 20 Muscular entertainers
 - 23 Figure artist
 - 26 Cavalier base
 - 27 Hello hello?
 - 28 Marconi's "miracle"
 - 30 Heb. month
 - 32 Two — kind
 - 35 Antelope
 - 36 O.T. kingdom
 - 37 Seed cover
 - 38 Exotic entertainers
 - 41 Seven-year urge
 - 42 Entity
 - 43 Woody or Peter
 - 44 Golf item
 - 45 "my —, Sonny Boy"
 - 46 Farm tool pioneer
 - 47 Legume
 - 48 Swiss river
 - 50 Draft org.
 - 51 Aesthetic entertainer
 - 57 Of a surface
 - 58 Sartre's "No —"
 - 59 Soviet sea
 - 63 Marble
 - 64 Choir part
- DOWN
- 1 Bird
 - 2 Plaza sound
 - 3 Great amount
 - 4 Angelica for one
 - 5 Film-maker
 - 6 Nimble
 - 7 Painter Raoul
 - 8 Rank
 - 9 Black eye
 - 10 Shelley drama
 - 11 Breathing sound
 - 12 State positively
 - 13 Cossels
 - 21 Wear away
 - 22 Place to remember
 - 23 Card of a kind
 - 24 Sense of taste
 - 25 "Ten Cents"
 - 29 Foot part
 - 30 Caine role
 - 31 Flit
 - 32 Maniples
 - 33 Some office workers
 - 34 Dress shapes
 - 36 Villain
 - 37 A as in —
 - 39 Assault
 - 40 Sierra —
 - 45 Ruby of old movies
 - 47 Dish
 - 48 Loos the author
 - 49 Thesplan
 - 51 False god
 - 52 Jason's vessel
 - 53 Spare
 - 54 Pine wood
 - 55 Whel's need
 - 56 Demolish
 - 60 Omega's relative
 - 61 Cinnabar is one
 - 62 Werner — Braun

WANTED



WANTED

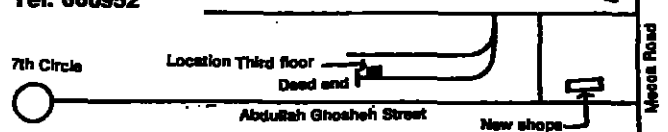
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FIRST RACE - 3:00 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1400 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Khalid N. El Falez	Jarrah	Owner	Mostafa	54
2- Nalef D. El Matar	Allan	Owner	Mostafa	54
3- Mohammad Dhwahy	Zaiden	Owner	Ahmad	54
4- Marley Talab	Elabjar	Owner	Mahmoud	54
5- Nalef A. Jnab	Sana'a	Owner	Mostafa	52.5
6- Saleem A. Mohammed	Yasra	Owner	Mostafa	52.5
7- Yousef Faraj	Reem	Owner	Rashed	52.5
8- Mohammad Rabayah	M. Raied	Owner	Fawaz	49.5
9- Mohammad Hassan	Hedban	Owner	Saad	48
10- A. El Satar Matar	J. El Mahakar	Owner	Mostafa	48.5
11- Saleh El Falez	Amal	Owner	Mostafa	52.5
12- Abbas El Adwan	El Balke	Owner	Dalallah	46.5

SECOND RACE - 3:30 p.m. For Third Class horses Distance 1600 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Miliak	A. El Izz	Owner	Yousef	53
2- Hail A. Ibraiz	Sibah	Owner	Mostafa	51.5
3- Mohammad A. Elhady	F. Naour	Owner	Salah	51.5
4- Mohammad Ahmad	Fajlith	Owner	Saad	51.5
5- Mohammad Sulman	Mofidh	Owner	Ahmed	51.5
6- Fawaz El Naboly	Moud	Owner	Mahmoud	51.5
7- Taleb A. El Kadir	D. El Mahakar	Owner	Mostafa	49
8- Mohammad El Jbarat	Sumayyah	Owner	Mostafa	48.5
9- Oudh El Kaday	Kawakib	Owner	Mostafa	47
10- Jamal M.A. Etzabin	El Hamdany	Owner	Moussa	47

THIRD RACE - 4:00 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1400 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Samy Haddadin	S. Amman	Owner	Ibrahim	49.5
2- Samy Haddadin	Salwa	Owner	Ibrahim	48.5
3- Izzat Ghadour	Koban	Owner	Saad	48
4- Faisal Awad El Falez	Husam	Owner	Moussa	48
5- Ghail B. Haddadin	Sayaf	Owner	Mahmoud	48
6- Hany El Hadeed	Diana	Owner	Ahmad	46.5
7- Samy Yacoub	Mahasin	Owner	Mostafa	46.5

FOURTH RACE - 4:30 p.m. For Third Class horses Distance 1600 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Samy Haddadin	Wadah	Owner	Ibrahim	57
2- Samy Haddadin	A. Samra	Owner	Mahmoud	57
3- Ghail B. Haddadin	A. El Midan	Owner	Mostafa	55
4- Samy Yacoub	Sharar	Owner	Mostafa	53
5- Faisal Awad El Falez	K. El Malouk	Owner	Moussa	47
6- Traid Damsan El Falez	El Lahik	Owner	Mostafa	45.5

FIFTH RACE - 5:00 p.m. For Third and Second Class horses Distance 1400 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- A. Ellatif	Wisam	Owner	Saad	57
2- H.R.H. Princess Badia's El Hassan	Badia'a	Owner	Ibrahim	52.5
3- Bahjat Fawaz	Apollo	Owner	Ibrahim	52.5
4- H.H. Late Sharif Naser Stables	El Hmady	Owner	Fawaz	48
5- H.H. Late Sharif Naser Stables	Zafaran	Owner	Ibrahim	48
6- Ghail B. Haddadin	Rable	Owner	Mahmoud	48
7- Ghail B. Haddadin	Naylth	Owner	Mostafa	48
8- Ghail B. Haddadin	Raddad	Owner	Mostafa	48

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ROMANCING THE STONE (Colour)

3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema ZAHARAN

Tel: 23171

THE BARE FACTS (Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema OPERA

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THE MAID (Colour) "Arabic Film"

Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- LAND OF FIRE 2- STEEL BALL (Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

HANNA K. (Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Reagan cautiously optimistic about U.S.-Soviet relations

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan is refusing to interpret verbal blasts from the Kremlin as a rejection of his latest appeal for improved U.S.-Soviet relations.

Mr. Reagan left the door open for progress Tuesday despite attacks by Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko and the official Soviet News Agency TASS following his address to the U.N. General Assembly on Monday.

Asked by a reporter if he thought Mr. Chernenko had rejected his initiative, Mr. Reagan replied: "Not as far as I know."

Earlier he said he would reach no conclusions until after he meets Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at the White House on Friday.

Mr. Reagan's U.N. speech was part of a change in his tone towards the Soviet Union from confrontation to conciliation which began in January, two weeks before he announced he would seek re-election in November.

He called at the General Assembly for regular high-level meetings between Soviet and U.S. officials that could lead to a summit, an exchange of military information, updating of the "hot line" between Washington and Moscow, and renewed efforts to break the stalemate in nuclear arms talks.

TASS said Tuesday that Mr. Reagan's address showed no shift in his policies and Mr. Chernenko accused the U.S. administration of not really wanting better ties with the Soviet Union.

But U.S. officials maintained that TASS frequently put out a much tougher line than the actual responses of Soviet leaders.

And White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Chernenko's speech was probably written before Mr. Reagan's address was made.

Mr. Gromyko is scheduled to meet Mr. Reagan's Democratic presidential challenger, Walter Mondale, and make a major speech to the United Nations which is expected to respond to Mr. Reagan's Monday address.

Mr. Reagan's cautious optimism was matched by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who conferred with him Tuesday.

Mr. Kissinger, the architect of détente in president Nixon's White House and a frequent negotiator with Mr. Gromyko and other Soviet leaders, told reporters:

"I don't think he (Gromyko) is coming to visit the president to embarrass him."

"I do not think there will be huge progress but I think there will be some progress," Mr. Kissinger said. "I believe they (the Soviet leadership), in a crab-like manner, are moving towards negotiations."

TASS military analyst Vladimir Bogachev said Washington had been making emotional calls for a fresh start to arms talks which really amounted to a proposal to "liquidate all the earlier achieved agreements on curbing the arms race."

"So when it comes to brass tacks it turns out that this proposal actually is a demand by the United States that other countries recognise America's right to military, political and economic hegemony," he wrote.

He said Washington's aims and actions were intended to further whip up international tension.

Secretary of State George Shultz got an impression in talks Tuesday with foreign ministers who have met Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko that "a little of the ice has broken" between the superpowers, a U.S. official said.

The official, briefing reporters on condition that he was not identified, said he did not know whether the impression gained was related to President Reagan's speech Monday in which he called for better relations with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shultz had talks with West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson, and Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, all of whom had earlier met Mr. Gromyko.

U.S. officials had gained "an across the board impression that a little of the ice has broken," the official said.

However, a source in the West German delegation said Mr. Gromyko made no specific reference to Mr. Reagan's speech in his talks with Mr. Genscher. But he said the Soviet delegation was not unaffected by the Reagan speech.

U.K., China initial H.Kong accord

PEKING (R) — British and Chinese negotiators exchanged champagne toasts and tributes in Peking Wednesday to celebrate the initialing of an agreement for the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997.

The brief ceremony at Peking's Great Hall of the People marked the end of two years of secret, often acrimonious bargaining. The officials said they expected the pact to be formally signed by the end of the year.

The text of the joint declaration, as it is called, was initialled by the two chief negotiators, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhou Nan and British Ambassador to Peking Sir Richard Evans, who hailed it as an historic document.

The accord, as published by the Chinese-language newspaper the Express, guarantees that Hong Kong will be allowed to maintain its present capitalist system and freedoms for 50 years after 1997.

Both countries' parliaments must now give their approval to the agreement, a step which officials on both sides expect to be a formality. If all goes well, the declaration will be formally signed in the Chinese capital in December.

Sir Richard Wednesday praised what he called Peking's imaginative concept of "one country, two systems" of which the joint declaration was the practical embodiment.

Mr. Zhou said the accord satisfactorily solved the question of sovereignty over Hong Kong, which Britain has ruled as a crown colony since seizing it from the decaying Chinese empire in the 19th Century.

He added that it provided an effective guarantee for Hong Kong's stability and prosperity in the future, the declared aim of the two governments when they announced the opening of negotiations two years and two days ago.

The right-wing Express in Hong Kong said that the agreement stipulated that Hong Kong would become a special Administrative Region (SAR) which would have "a high degree of autonomy except in the fields of foreign affairs and defence."

It said the territory's residents would continue to enjoy their present freedoms of religion, speech, assembly and right to strike.

The legal system would be "basically unchanged" and the post-1997 Hong Kong government would be made up of what it called local people.

The daily said Hong Kong would be allowed to maintain its contacts with foreign countries using the name "China-Hong Kong", and the local administration could handle its own finances and issue its own travel documents.

Peking diplomats who have followed the course of the negotiations said the text published by the Express seemed in line with a major statement issued early this year by Chinese elder statesman Ji Pengfei, who has been overseeing the drafting of China's Hong Kong policy.

Meanwhile Taiwan said it would not recognise the Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong initialled in Peking Wednesday.

In a statement on the pact to hand back the colony to China in 1997, the Foreign Ministry said: "The Chinese Communists are a rebel group and have no right to conclude any agreement with a foreign country."

"Any agreement they conclude with Britain on matters regarding Hong Kong will be null and void and the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) will not recognise it."

The nationalist Chinese government fled to Taiwan when it was defeated by the Communists in 1949 and still claims to be the legal administration of China.

Wednesday's statement said: "We deeply deplore... that Britain and the Chinese Communists have reached an agreement on the future status of Hong Kong without due respect to the wish of the Hong Kong people to maintain their system of economic prosperity and democracy."

Mondale admits trailing Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — Democratic candidate Walter Mondale has openly admitted that he is far behind Ronald Reagan in the presidential race but says he will not abandon his promises of higher taxes and more aid to the poor.

Mr. Mondale flew to Cleveland Wednesday to speak to a steelworkers' union meeting and will spend the night in New York, where he meets Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Thursday.

"It's no secret that I'm the underdog in this race," he told university students in Washington.

Public opinion polls for the Nov. 6 election show the former Democratic vice-president trailing Mr. Reagan by 15 to 30 per cent. But Mr. Mondale said he had rejected advice that he could make headway by dropping plans to increase taxes and boost government spending for the poor.

Blast damages S. African consulate in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — A "powerful" blast ripped through the South African consulate early Wednesday causing extensive damage, knocking out walls and power to the elevators of the mid-Manhattan office tower, police said.

The explosion occurred at 12.23 a.m. (0423 GMT) in a 33-story building also housing other tenants, according to police Sgt. Eddie Leschack. There were no immediate reports of injuries. The bomb went off on the 12th floor, where the South African consulate has offices, the sergeant said.

The Associated Press received a taped message at 12.35 a.m. (0435 GMT) in which an accented male voice said: "We bombed the South African consulate in New York City in solidarity with resistance to South African human rights violations. Down with apartheid (race segregation). Victory to the freedom fighters. Defeat U.S. imperialism. Guerrilla resistance."

The message did not identify any organisation claiming responsibility.

A building maintenance worker, J. Hojer, said he received an anonymous telephone bomb threat about 15 minutes before the explosion.

"It was powerful bomb which blew down a couple of walls," said police officer Kevin Ryan of the 12th-floor blast. Sgt. Jack Burton said explosion occurred "inside a stairwell that caused extensive damage from the 10th to 14th floors."

"There were no fires," Burton said. Officer Tony Vellelong, who inspected the rubble on the 12th floor, said a heavy steel fire door was thrown 30 feet into the consulate office by the concussion of the blast.

COLUMNS 7&8

Actor Walter Pidgeon dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Walter Pidgeon, who starred in more than 100 films, including the big box office successes Mrs. Miniver and "How Green Was My Valley," died Tuesday at the age of 86, a hospital spokeswoman said. She said Pidgeon, who was one of Hollywood's biggest box office attractions in the 1940s, was admitted to St. John's Hospital in Los Angeles a week ago after suffering a series of strokes. A Canadian, Pidgeon specialised in playing scholarly, rather vague romantic roles and had some of his biggest successes playing opposite Greer Garson, who was Mrs. Miniver.

U.S. to build Gibrán memorial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation authorising the Khalil Gibrán Centennial Foundation to establish a memorial to the poet in the District of Columbia or its environs. The bill was passed on a voice vote. Gibrán, born in Lebanon, emigrated to the United States with his family at age 12. By his death at age 48, he had produced, as both writer and artist, a prodigious body of creative work. The memorial would commemorate the life and work of the revered artist, writer, poet and philosopher. Proponents said there would be no cost to the United States except for maintenance of the landscape at the memorial. The secretary of interior, with the approval of the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, shall select the site for the memorial and approve its designs and plans.

Pakistan executes two Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — In the first confirmed execution of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, two men climbed the scaffold for "sexually abusing" a pair of children, a prison official said. The hangings at Mianwali District jail, 224 kilometres southwest of here, were carried out at 5:15 a.m. (0015 GMT), Monday according to the jail superintendent, who declined to be identified by name. The official said the men were sentenced several weeks ago. He named the convicts as Kajah Khan, 32, and Janan Khan, 35, and said the men were not related.

1,500 gangsters surrender in Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — More than 1,500 gangsters have surrendered to police during a four-month amnesty which ended Tuesday, Taiwan's Interior Minister Wu Po-Hsiung said. The government declared the amnesty because of Taiwan's growing crime rate. It promised not to prosecute members of gangs controlling gambling, prostitution and protection rackets if they gave themselves up and pledged to go straight. Mr. Wu said a large number of gangsters had not surrendered. He did not say how many remained at large but said that police would crack down on law-breakers.

China's population reaches 1,024b.

PEKING (AP) — China, the world's most populous country, had 1,024 billion people by the end of 1983, an increase of 16 million over 1982, state family planning Commission Minister Wang Wei said in a recently published report. Mr. Wang did not say if this figure exceeded targets of China's strict birth control programme, but said the task of population control "is not easy." His remarks were reported by the official news agency Xinhua in an interview about what it called China's population-control successes under the 35-year-old Communist government. He said the birth rate dropped to 18.6 per thousand in 1983, compared with 36 per thousand in 1949.

Basque country on strike after continued violence

BILBAO, Spain (R) — Basques in northern Spain staged a one-day general strike Wednesday to protest against France's decision to extradite three suspected Basque guerrillas, and the militant organisers said many workers joined the stoppage.

In Bilbao, the industrial heart of the Basque country, buses and trains halted and barricades were thrown across roads around the city.

There were violent protests against the extraditions Tuesday night for the third night running. Police said at least 15 people were detained and several were hurt when protesters in 16 towns burned vehicles and blocked roads and railway lines.

The main road linking south western France with Spain, shut by French lorry drivers in protest against attacks on their trucks, remained blocked with several hundred vehicles on either side, police said.

Leaders of the radical Basque

political group Herri Batasuna said they expected wide support for the strike in spite of opposition to it from the main political parties and unions.

The French decision on Sunday to send the three men back to Spain to stand trial for murder marked a shift in policy and was praised by the Socialist government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The decision is subject to appeal and the French Council of State is expected to rule this week.

The head of the Basque regional government, Carlos Garaikoetxea, was expected to speak on the extraditions in the regional parliament Wednesday and party sources said he would criticise them.

The decision to extradite three of seven men wanted by Madrid was a departure from the traditional French policy of giving political asylum to Spanish Basques. The other four have been sent to Togo in West Africa.

Reagan, Mulroney agree to hold regular talks

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney have agreed to meet regularly in an attempt to improve relations between the two countries.

The two were reported to have struck up a warm personal rapport at their first meeting Tuesday and a senior American official said: "The atmosphere was as friendly as could be."

But it was not clear whether the warmth of the talks will help resolve U.S.-Canadian differences. The American official refused to speculate when asked if the meeting foreshadowed agreement on such divisive issues as acid rain when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark meet in October.

Acid rain is an emotional issue in Canada, where it is believed that emissions from American manufacturing plants are crossing

the border and damaging the Canadian environment.

Mr. Mulroney said after the meeting: "Our talks focussed on strengthening and, indeed, intensifying consultations between the executive arm of our two countries and also between Congress and the parliament. We want more coherence in the management of our relations," Mr. Mulroney said.

Mr. Reagan, in turn, said the two men "agreed to keep each other's interest in mind" in the event of disputes between Ottawa and Washington.

U.S.-Canadian relations have been complicated in recent years by disputes over acid rain, fishing rights and Canadian efforts to restrict foreign dominance of its economy, as well as sometimes tense relations between Mr. Reagan and Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who resigned in June.

ANZUS should be replaced, New Zealand envoy says

WELLINGTON (R) — Former Prime Minister Sir Wallace Rowling, named as New Zealand's ambassador in Washington, said Wednesday that a new pact should replace the ANZUS defence alliance linking the country with the United States and Australia.

"I think ANZUS can no longer be regarded as relevant," he told reporters. "That really does mean almost starting from scratch."

He said a new agreement between the three nations would have a military aspect but its major effect would be economic.

Sir Wallace remarks followed a reaffirmation by Prime Minister David Lange that nuclear weapons would not be allowed in New Zealand. The United States believes the ANZUS alliance could be threatened if Mr. Lange's Labour Party government goes ahead with its plans to bar American nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered vessels from New Zealand.

But Mr. Lange told the U.N. General Assembly Tuesday that ANZUS was central New Zealand's foreign and defence policies.

land going into discussions with the United States on a "confrontation basis, although we are dangerously close to that at the moment."

"It's just nonsense to be fronting up to a country that has been one of our best friends over the years. It is an equal nonsense for the Americans to suggest that we have to bend to their views," said Sir Wallace, who was appointed ambassador Tuesday and takes up the post early next year.

He went on: "I would have thought there was quite a keen desire on the part of the three countries to remain in some kind of a formal relationship. That's what we've got to work at."

Sir Wallace said a new relationship would have a military input, but the major effect would be economic.

"I would like to think that any new arrangement would take into account where we are at the moment, which does not include defending ourselves against the Japanese which was what ANZUS was all about," he said.

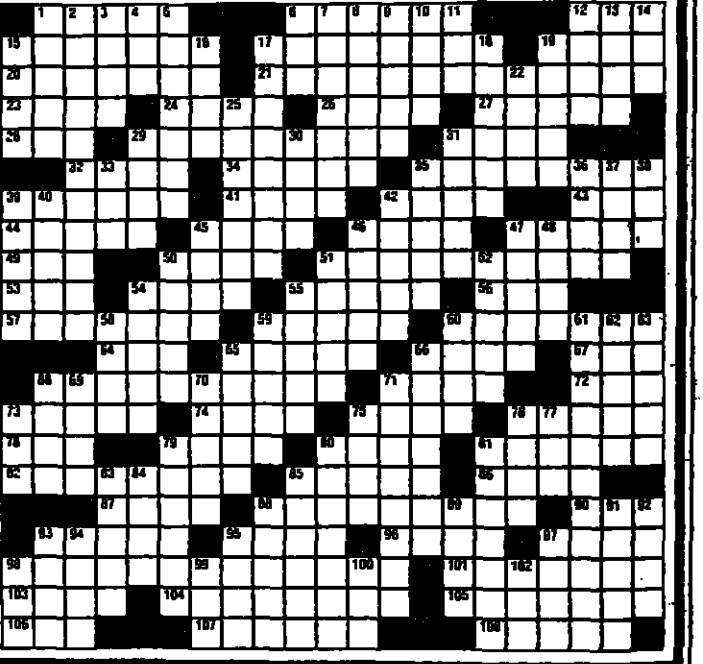
He added that the United States was now overtly urging Japan to rearm — "If ever there was a denial of ANZUS, that's it."

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

STRANGE GROCERY LIST
By Bert H. Kruse

- ACROSS
- 1 Former Turk.
 - 2 Cakes
 - 3 Worried
 - 4 Satisfies
 - 5 Shipyard
 - 6 Fr. king
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 - 100 Progress



1. I've come down with a feverish, head-thrashing, teeth-chattering, throat-tickling, foot-sucking, miserable cold.
2. High wire walker didn't know how to get her checkbook balanced.
3. Big brewery sold a few of its best beverages in a bewildering variety of bottles.
4. Neat cobbler mended old schoolmate's down-at-heel worn red shoes.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. GRAVITA URVOTVPT OSVXPT QI QEA
LVBDKDYV VAPT: BSVI PQTU GR EVF QC EVF
XQI QOET AQBX.
2. ZAX ODS LBB HGB EZRST LXS LCFDERST
CUEBLST OUAUF KOFALL BGB LOBSB.
3. DEARS FEARS. CHS DIS CLEARS. CHBYLO
FESSFY IDYO' BEARS.
4. DCFA ECEC FOCTIF TWODANCE RCEC IBL FB
LAOW BNNDBEW TOGRA FCFC.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A6 ♥A987532 ♦AKJ4

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

1 ♥ 2 ♣ Pass Pass

What action would you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q52 ♥AJ83 ♦J32 ♣KQ6

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

1 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass

3 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K107632 ♥K ♦7 ♣A8763

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South

5 ♣ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠J8542 ♥Q762 ♦95 ♣73

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South

1 ♣ Double 1 NT Pass

2 ♣ Double Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQJ6 ♥9 ♦J73 ♣KJ872

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

3 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass

What action do you take?